

Arafat arrives in North Yemen

BAHRAIN (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat arrived in Sana'a from Tunis Tuesday for talks with North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the Saudi Press Agency reported. The agency quoted Mr. Arafat as saying the talks would cover "treacherous Zionist aggressions" in Israeli-occupied Arab territory following last month's killing of three Arab students in Hebron. Mr. Arafat was also expected to head a meeting of the Palestinian Supreme Military Council in Sana'a later Tuesday, it said. In Tunis last week, Mr. Arafat attended a Palestine Central Council meeting which discussed Palestinian differences and relations with Syria.

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Saudi king receives Jordanian message

BAHRAIN (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia received a message from King Hussein, the Saudi Press Agency reported. The agency gave no details of the letter delivered by Court Minister Amer Khamash several days after the two monarchs met in the Saudi summer resort of Taif. The talks covered bilateral relations, the Iran-Iraq war and latest Arab developments.

Israel continues land seizures

AMMAN (Petra) — The residents of the West Bank village of Aqraba, near Nablus, have been notified by the Israeli occupation authorities that all plots of the adjacent Al Tawil area are now under the control of the occupation authority, travellers arriving from Nablus said Tuesday. They added that the Al Tawil land was Aqraba's only remaining land property following previous seizure of 110,000 dunums of village land by the occupation authorities.

French troops said en route to Chad

PARIS (R) — A force of French soldiers is being flown from the Central African Republic to the Chad capital Ndjamena, sources close to the French defence ministry said Tuesday. The sources put the number of troops at a maximum of 200 and said their role would be logistical and involve handling military and telecommunications equipment. A defence ministry official earlier declined to comment on a report published by the domestic French news agency (AFP) that France had ordered troops to leave the Central African Republic for Chad. (Related story on p. 2)

Israeli convoy attacked in Lebanon

TEL AVIV (R) — Gunmen in a car shot at an Israeli convoy in southern Lebanon Monday evening, a military spokesman said Tuesday. The incident occurred near the village of Abbasiyeh, north-east of Tyre on the Mediterranean coast.

Libya seeks Security Council meeting

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Libya is requesting an urgent meeting of the Security Council to discuss "provocative actions" by the United States. Libya's charge d'affaires, Awad Burwin, said Tuesday. He was responding to reporters' questions while on his way to a meeting with Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Weinberger to visit Islamabad Sept. 30

ISLAMABAD (R) — U.S. Secretary of Defence Casper Weinberger will pay a three-day visit to Pakistan from Sept. 30 as part of an Asian tour, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday. The statement gave no details about the visit.

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Fahd reportedly rejects partial Israeli pullout

JEDDAH (Agencies) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has rejected a new U.S. proposal for a partial withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon, the newspaper Al Sharq Al Awsat said Tuesday.

Quoting informed sources, the newspaper said King Fahd told visiting U.S. special envoy Robert McFarlane Saudi Arabia insisted on complete withdrawal of Israeli troops to enable Lebanon's legitimate authorities to exercise their full sovereignty.

In what was seen by political observers as a deliberately cool reception, the American envoy was kept waiting for 24 hours before seeing the Saudi monarch.

Mr. McFarlane, making his first Middle East tour since taking over from Philip Habib last month, is trying to secure withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon.

Official Saudi Arabian sources in Jeddah said the meeting with the king lasted for two hours, but

they declined to elaborate. The Saudi Press Agency said Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal attended the McFarlane-Fahd meeting, at the Saudi summer resort of Taif, but gave no details on their talks.

Mr. McFarlane had previously seen only the Saudi ambassador to Washington, Prince Bandar Ibn Sultan, during his wait to see the king.

Mr. McFarlane has already visited Israel, Lebanon and Syria, and on Tuesday held talks in Amman with His Majesty King Hussein before flying to Beirut.

The reported Saudi rebuff marks a further setback in Washington's efforts to break the impasse over Lebanon.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad told Mr. McFarlane in Damascus last week that Syria would not drop its opposition to the U.S.-sponsored accord on troop withdrawals signed by Israel and Lebanon on May 17.

Israel says it will not pull out its forces, which invaded Lebanon in June last year, until Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation agree to a simultaneous withdrawal.

Growing Arab opposition to America's Middle East policies has been reinforced by last week's U.S. veto of a U.N. Security Council resolution on Israeli settlements in occupied territories.

The resolution, backed by 13 other council members with only one abstention, condemned the settlements as illegal and called for their dismantling.

But in what was widely seen in the region as a major shift in Washington's policy on the issue, its representative to the U.N. said dismantling existing settlements would be "impractical."

Iraqi border towns declared safe from Iranians

Iraqis withdraw from Mehran

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Tuesday its troops had withdrawn from Iranian territory in the Mehran area where bitter fighting has been reported on the central Gulf war front.

An Iraqi military spokesman told the Iraqi news agency INA: "Our brave forces have completed their withdrawal from the Mehran basin area to the international border at 1900 hours (1500 GMT) today after achieving their objectives."

The commander of the Iraqi Second Army Corps on the central front said earlier Tuesday his forces had destroyed 70 per cent of the Iranian troops he said had

been besieged in the Mehran area. The major-general, who was not named, said, "our forces have achieved the set objective in destroying enemy forces and driving them deep inside Iranian territory to keep Iraqi border townships far away from Iranian fire."

An Iranian military communiqué Tuesday had claimed its force had captured two strategic border heights from Iraq north of Mehran after launching a second stage of an offensive in the central sector of the front.

The Iraqi military spokesman said in Baghdad Iraq's forces would conduct further punitive operations "in this sector or other

sectors of the war front if the Iranian regime continues its aggression and attempts to cross Iraqi international borders with the aim of occupying our lands."

President Saddam Hussein was reported to have commanded the latest Iraqi operation.

An official military communiqué issued later said Iraqi forces had killed 1,164 Iranian troops and wounded many more during the previous 24 hours.

It said the Iranians also lost 11 tanks, six armoured troop carriers, 12 106-mm artillery pieces, 25 trucks and a number of other weapons in the central sector.

Iran threatens to block Hormuz

ANKARA (R) — Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe was told during a visit to Tehran that Iran would block the key Hormuz Strait at the mouth of the Gulf if Iraq attacked its Kharg Island oil installations, a Japanese spokesman said here Tuesday.

Mr. Abe arrived in Ankara from Tehran Monday and flew to Baghdad later Tuesday after talks with Turkish ministers.

His spokesman Kishichiro Amaye told reporters in Ankara that the speaker of the Iranian parliament, Ali Akbar Rafsanjani, told Mr. Abe that Iran did not want to drag any other country into its 35-month-old war with Iraq.

But Mr. Rafsanjani was quoted as saying Iran would respond to any attack on Kharg Island by blockading the Hormuz Strait, a move which would effectively cut vital oil supplies to the West from Gulf producers.

Mr. Abe replied that blocking the strait would inevitably involve the superpowers in the war, the spokesman said.

Iranian officials also told Mr. Abe Iran would not accept any third party attempts to negotiate a settlement in the war.

They reiterated Iran's insistence on the removal of the Iraqi government, the recognition of its territorial claims and war reparations as conditions for peace, Mr. Amaye said.

He added that Mr. Abe was making no mediation attempts during his visits to Tehran and Baghdad but was strongly urging both sides to end the conflict quickly.

Mr. Amaye said Iranian officials had made no mention of relations between Tehran and Turkey, which is worried by possible spill-over from the latest fighting between its neighbours, some of which is within 60 kilometres of Turkish territory.

Mr. Abe Tuesday met Turkish President Kenan Evren, Prime Minister Bulend Ulusu and Foreign Minister Turgut Ozal for talks focussing on the Gulf war and bilateral relations, Mr. Amaye said.

A threat by Iran recently that it might attack an oil pipeline to Turkey's Mediterranean coast from central Iraq prompted warnings from Ankara that Iran and Iraq should not let their fight threaten Turkey's vital interests.

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Rival Lebanese factions level charges at each other for wave of bombings

BEIRUT (R) — Rival sides traded charges Tuesday over who was responsible for recent explosions in Syrian-held parts of Lebanon in which more than 50 people were killed.

Damascus Radio linked the blasts to a meeting in Beirut last Thursday between former Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon, now a minister without portfolio in the Menachem Begin government, and Pierre Gemayel, father of Lebanon's president and head of the rightist Falange Party.

But the Falangist daily Al Amal put the blame squarely on the inter-Palestinian guerrilla conflict and said the bombings were meant to sabotage the current Middle East mission of U.S. special envoy Robert McFarlane.

Former Prime Minister Rashid Karami, a Sunni Muslim and a leading figure in the opposition Syrian-backed "National Salvation Front," was quoted by the Beirut press Tuesday as saying "elements within the authorities" were behind weekend car bombings in the Lebanese towns of Tripoli and Baalbek. He did not elaborate.

In Baalbek, where more than 30 people were killed when a car packed with explosives blew up in a crowded vegetable market on Sunday, leftist and Islamic groups also accused the government of responsibility.

The Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia said the bombing was intended to stir up feelings against itself and Syrian troops who are in overall control of the area.

Local Shi'ite clerics and the Hizb Allah (God's Party), a group supporting Iran's revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, issued a joint statement blaming "the great Satan, America, its protegee Israel, and its tail, the Falangist authorities."

But Lebanese Military Prosecutor Assad Germanos said judicial authorities were in possession of unspecified information about the Tripoli blast, adding that he had ordered "a thorough investigation" into the Baalbek bomb.

In a shooting incident Monday night outside the Beirut home of Amal leader Nabih Berri, one man was killed and another was

wounded, press reports said Tuesday.

The leftist daily As Safir said the men were Falangist gunmen in a passing car but the Falangist radio said the building's guards opened fire on them without provocation.

Another leader of the National Salvation Front, former President-Suleiman Franjieh, called Tuesday for Falangist leaders who met Mr. Sharon to be put on trial "for cooperation with the enemy."

Mr. Franjieh told reporters at his summer home in northern Lebanon that death by bombing had come to several Lebanese towns and said: "Killing and destruction through explosives is a Zionist invention."

"The first to use it was the first terrorist, Menachem Begin, when he blew up the King David Hotel in Jerusalem," Mr. Franjieh said.

"It's no coincidence that this series of blasts should come at the same time as the arrival of the second terrorist, Sharon, in Beirut and his meeting with agents through whom the Israeli hand of destruction spreads throughout Lebanon."



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday holds talks with the new U.S. special envoy to the Middle East, Robert McFarlane (Petra photo)

McFarlane briefs Hussein

AMMAN (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received the new special U.S. envoy to the Middle East, Robert McFarlane, who briefed him on the outcome of current U.S. efforts for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon.

Mr. McFarlane, who arrived in Amman from Saudi Arabia after talks with King Fahd, conveyed to the King President Reagan's determination to pursue U.S. efforts for a comprehensive solution of the Lebanese problem, and restoring peace in the Middle East, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

King Hussein reaffirmed his support for the Lebanese government and its legitimacy, Petra said.

Mr. McFarlane later left Amman for Lebanon and Reuter reported his arrival in Beirut.

Mr. McFarlane arrived here after what appeared to have been

a frosty reception in Saudi Arabia, previous stop on his Middle East tour.

Neutral diplomats in the area say the message from Saudi Arabia and Jordan is that there is disappointment in the Arab World over slow progress in Lebanon and distress over last week's U.S. Security Council veto.

The United States vetoed a resolution that would have declared Israeli settlements in the West Bank "illegal."

Reuter quoted Palace sources here as saying Mr. McFarlane met King Hussein several hours after arriving in Amman from the Saudi summer capital of Taif. Earlier, Mr. McFarlane went to Lebanon, Israel, and Syria as well as Saudi Arabia on his Middle East tour.

Israel declines to pull out completely pending a withdrawal by Syria, but Damascus continues to denounce U.S. Middle East peace proposals.

Syria reiterated to Mr. McFarlane its refusal to withdraw from Lebanon unless Israel pulled out unconditionally.

With apparent deadlock on Lebanon, Jordan is adopting a wait-and-see attitude to the U.S. peace effort and Jordanian sources doubted whether Mr. McFarlane's talks with King Hussein would have involved more than an exchange of views.

Tuesday's meeting in Amman was attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Ahmad Al Lawzi, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Minister of Information Adnan Abu Odeh and Minister of Foreign Affairs Marwan Al Qasem. The U.S. team included Mr. McFarlane's assistant Richard Fairbanks, U.S. charge d'affaires in Amman and a number of Mr. McFarlane's advisers.

Arafat: U.S. policy threatens Mideast

VIENNA (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said on Austrian Television Monday United States policy in the Middle East was threatening to split the region through a dangerous "balkanisation" process.

He told an interviewer in Tunis, following a meeting there last week of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Central Council, that events in Lebanon and action taken against the Palestinians were causing ever new splits in the area.

"This brings new conflicts, new volcanoes. That is balkanisation," Mr. Arafat said. U.S. policies and Israel's "arrogance of power" were the main causes, he added.

Asked if the PLO leadership felt itself threatened by Syria, which expelled him six weeks ago, Mr. Arafat replied: "We have misunderstandings, but we hope we will be able to bypass them."

Mr. Arafat acknowledged the possibility of increased Soviet influence in the Middle East, and said this posed a dilemma. "We cannot ignore one of the super-powers, because the Middle East is an international problem and not a local conflict," he said.

Mr. Arafat said he insisted that negotiations for a Middle East settlement must be based on an Arab peace plan agreed at a summit meeting in Fez last September.

He said he was asking for a United Nations Security Council debate on this issue. "We cannot address all parties to the conflict. All the elements of the Middle East crisis are there."

Mr. Arafat said he had told the Austrian government, which has been mediating for a possible exchange of Israeli and Palestinian war prisoners, that the PLO was ready to begin negotiations on this, and expected results.

The PLO earlier this year offered to swap eight Israeli soldiers captured in Lebanon last year for 1,000 Palestinians in Israeli jails and more than 5,000 detainees held by Israel in a camp in South Lebanon.

Mr. Arafat said Monday he was ready to begin talks on six Israelis held by the mainstream Fatah commando group which he leads, and added he would do his best for the two others. They are in the hands of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

Assad opposes troop separation in Lebanon

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad's government rejects an Israeli-proposed agreement to separate Syrian and Israeli forces facing each other in Lebanon, a Syrian minister said Monday.

Culture Minister Najah Attar announced the rejection in an article published by the Damascus government newspaper, Tishrin, that Syria would not withdraw its troops from Lebanon unless Israel unconditionally withdraws.

The article appeared one day after the new special U.S. envoy to the Middle East, Robert McFarlane, apparently failed in six hours of talks to soften Syria's opposition to the Lebanese-Israeli troop withdrawal agreement.

"Robert McFarlane came to us with an empty bag," Mrs. Attar wrote. "We refuse the policy of partial withdrawal because it consecrates the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. We also refuse to a disengagement in the Bekaa because it helps the policy of Partial withdrawal."

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Egypt rules out intervention in Chad fighting

CAIRO (R) — President Hosni Mubarak reiterated Tuesday Egypt's determination not to intervene in the fighting in Chad saying this would further complicate the problem.

He told reporters Libya's military intervention in support of rebels led by former Chad President Goukouni Oueddei was "very terrible."

Chad is a friend of ours. Libya is not a friend but an African country just as Chad is... Egypt's participation in the war will not solve the problem but will complicate it further," he said.

Mr. Mubarak said Egypt was exerting every effort to overcome the conflict between the Chad government of President Hissene Habre and the Libyan-backed rebels by giving advice to both parties to resort to reason and logic.

He did not elaborate. The president made his remarks while touring repair works to restore Saladin's 12th century citadel.

Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali said Egypt was opposed to any American or Soviet involvement in Chad.

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Ali said: "We think if the superpowers got involved in Chad it will be an intervention and we are against foreign intervention in Chad."

The minister said Egypt considered Libya's intervention in Chad a violation of the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) charters.

Mr. Ali said Libya's involvement in Chad's conflict was an escalation of the situation there.

Presidential contest turns into cliffhanger in Lagos

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's presidential election Tuesday appeared to be turning into a cliffhanger when a second batch of results showed incumbent Shehu Shagari scoring some handsome gains to offset early losses.

With only six state results out of 19 declared, it was still too early to predict the outcome, but a see-saw battle was clearly under way and excited Nigerians stayed close to their radios to pick up the latest twists.

In the first two results announced just after midnight, Mr. Shagari, of the ruling National Party of Nigeria (NPN), saw his chief rival, Obafemi Awolowo of the Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN), making inroads into his support.

But the latest batch of results showed Mr. Shagari turning the tables on Mr. Awolowo by snapping up 20 per cent in Ondo state, one of the four western states dominated by the Yoruba tribe, the backbone of the UPN.

In the 1979 election, which ended 13 years of military rule, Mr. Shagari managed to win only four per cent of the Ondo vote.

In northeastern Bauchi state, Mr. Shagari picked up a 1.5 million votes, adding 20 per cent to the 62.5 per cent share of the poll he won in 1979. He also won overwhelmingly in Abuja, the projected new national capital, where he took 127,000 votes against only 4,000 for his nearest rival.

Bauchi compensated for the 1.2 million votes which Mr. Awolowo won in his home state of Ondo, but the UPN leader also managed to win 1.4 million votes in Ogun despite dropping 17 per cent from his 1979 share.

According to incomplete returns, Mr. Awolowo was also doing well in Bendel state to the east of Lagos, where the NPN had hopes of a majority, and in Eastern Cross River where the UPN had been expected to gain.

In Lagos, another Awolowo stronghold, the UPN won nearly 1.4 million votes, over 83 per cent.



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MIDDLE EAST

'Jordan is coping well with economic problems'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's Central Bank Governor Said Nabulsi has said that Jordan is coping well with economic difficulties despite the ill-effects of global recession and a sharp drop in aid from Arab oil-producing countries on Jordan's economy.

In an interview with Reuters correspondent Nicholas Moore, Mr. Nabulsi said he prefers to speak of a slowdown in business activity rather than a recession.

With some 2.25 million people and few resources, the country is highly dependent on aid from Arab oil producers and remittances from Jordanian working abroad, especially in the Gulf.

Trade figures for 1982 show that Jordanian exports, of which phosphates, a fertiliser, are the most prominent, earned only around \$750 million.

Remittances from Jordanians abroad, who account for 35 to 40 per cent of the labour force, brought in appreciably more — over \$1 billion — while foreign aid contributed another billion.

The weakness in the international oil market and the Gulf war — which has reduced the oil earnings of Iraq, a former aid donor — have had an inevitable ripple effect here.

Mr. Nabulsi told Reuters in an interview that since the oil glut took hold around mid-1982, remittances had held up well but were not rising as fast as in the past.

Exports were inevitably depressed by the global recession but the biggest worry had been foreign aid, he said.

"There has been a steep decline in Arab official assistance. I suppose it amounts to a drop of almost

half a billion dollars if you compare 1982 with 1980," he added.

Arab oil money flows to Jordan as assistance under Arab League auspices, arranged on account of its place among the "front line" states confronting Israel and the amputation by the Israelis in 1967 of the prosperous but occupied West Bank.

But Libya and Algeria have halted payments since 1980 and Iraq is itself in difficulty and in need of Saudi aid since its oil sales were throttled by the Gulf war with Iran.

Mr. Nabulsi said that with the prolonged softness in the oil market and their own lower exports, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait had found it harder to make up the aid shortfall from Algeria, Libya and Iraq. But they still provided huge sums on their own account, he said.

Slowdown in growth

The various factors are reflected in a sharp slowdown in economic growth. Gross National Product (at constant prices) grew 4.5 per cent in 1982 compared with 14 per cent in 1981. The Central Bank has reported.

"For the first half of 1983 most indicators are the same," Mr. Nabulsi said.

The economic slowdown coincides with fading hopes among Jordanian officials that President Reagan's September 1982 peace initiative can resolve the Arab-Israeli crisis.

Amid rising violence in the region, there are fears here that Israeli settlement of the West Bank may threaten a new tide of Palestinian refugees across the Jordan.

Mr. Nabulsi noted that around one third of the present East Bank population is of school age, which suggests there will be already rising pressure on the job market. Jordan's 1981-86 development plan envisages having to create 250,000 new jobs.

But the Central Bank governor was not pessimistic.

He said, for example, that the assumption the economic downturn in the Gulf would reduce demand for Jordanian workers was far from proven valid.

"The question is, how long will this (downturn) last in the Gulf?" he said. "There are already signs that the oil market is firmer. Besides, if they are going to sack people they are not going to start by sacking Jordanians."

Mr. Nabulsi said Jordan at present had no unemployment problem. He estimated inflation was down to around five per cent now from 7.4 per cent in 1982, which was itself the lowest for a decade.

He added: "We are finding a very slow improvement in exports to Iraq," which had apparently acted to improve management of its available funds and was now buying Jordanian manufactures and foodstuffs.



BRITISH TROOPS ROTATE: Outgoing commander of the British peacekeeping force in Lebanon, Lt.-Col. John Cochrane (R), talks to his replacement, Lt.-Col. David Roberts Tuesday at Beirut International Airport. British troops from

"C" squadron, Queen's Dragoon Guards, board a C-130 transport plane in the background. The new troops arrived from Cyprus to start their duties with the peacekeeping force. (A.P. wirephoto)

France supports Chadian claim

NDJAMENA (R) — The Chad government has provided what it considers the clearest evidence so far of Libyan involvement in its civil war and France has warned Tripoli not to internationalise the conflict.

A Libyan pilot presented to a news conference Monday said he had led a 12-strong squadron which carried out repeated air raids on Faya-Largeau, the northern oasis town recaptured by government troops on July 30.

The man, named as Maj. Abdul-Salam Mohammed Chahed, said his Soviet-built Sukhoi SU-22 fighter-bomber was shot down in northern Chad last Friday. He bailed out, and was captured the following day. He said his squadron had been visited last week by Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qaddafi.

Libya denied Maj. Chahed had been captured in recent fighting, saying he was taken prisoner in 1981 during an earlier phase of the 17-year-old civil war.

Maj. Chahed was presented to the press and the diplomatic corps in the Chad capital of Ndjamena as France for the first time accused Libya of playing a direct role in the war.

French External Affairs Minister Claude Cheysson told a Paris television station that Franco-Libyan relations would suffer if Libya continued intervening in Chad.

Mr. Cheysson mentioned specifically the alleged Libyan air raids on Faya-Largeau, the first time a member of the French government has done so.

France has consistently refused to send men or planes to back the Chad government despite repeated pleas from President Hissene Habre. But it has provided emergency arms shipments including anti-aircraft guns.

Mr. Habre on Sunday dismissed any suggestion that a military cooperation agreement between the two countries excluded direct French intervention, saying Chad was a victim of foreign aggression and this cleared the way for direct military backing.

The testimony of Maj. Chahed, who said he was trained in Egypt and the Soviet Union, is seen by the Chad government as the most concrete evidence to date that Libya is playing an active part alongside the rebels, despite denials from Tripoli.

He said his squadron operated from a base in the Aouzou strip which Libya annexed from Chad a decade ago, while a squadron of Tupolev TU-22 bombers took part in the raids from Sebha in Libya.

Military sources said here Monday night that the Libyan air force continued to pin down Chad government troops in various northern garrisons.

But they said Mr. Habre's forces were still in control in Faya-Largeau, as well as Oum-Chalouba 250 kilometres southeast of the oasis town, the sources added.

About 500 rebels said to have been captured when government troops retook Faya-Largeau are to be paraded in the capital's streets Wednesday.

Food stocks are also high, filled with grain harvested from the lower part of the 130-kilometre valley and other supplies plundered from government convoys, they added.

Masoud, one of the best-known guerrilla commanders, has also been co-ordinating strategy with seven other guerrilla leaders from strongholds in northern and eastern areas of the country, the diplomats said.

He used the truce to send Panjshir fighters to help guerrillas in other areas, the diplomats said. About 300 Panjshiris were reported to have fought with local guerrillas during a strong Soviet

offensive last month against Paghman, a guerrilla-held resort area north of Kabul.

According to Afghan sources based in Peshawar, Masoud included guerrillas from outside the Panjshir Valley in his "strike forces" of 20 to 30 men, indicating that his control was spreading outside his valley stronghold to other areas.

The diplomats said Soviet forces began bombing targets in the lower Panjshir Valley last month, possibly as a warning of the consequences of not renewing the truce. They said the truce helped Soviet commanders divert troops to other areas.

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Noor to inaugurate Salt children's park

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor will pay a visit to Salt Wednesday to inaugurate a children's park in the 'Ain Al Jadour area.

A report in Al Rai newspaper Tuesday said that the Queen will also visit a number of projects initiated by the Salt municipality.

These include the Salt Cultural Centre, the shopping centre, the central market place and the city's main car park, all at present under construction. During the visit, Queen Noor will meet the Mayor of Salt Abdul Razzaq Nsour, the Governor of Balqa Mohammad Al Khatib and other key local figures.

Pan-Arab confectionery seminar set for Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Union for Foodstuff Industries (AUFI) will hold a three day pan-Arab seminar in Amman in the second half of this month to discuss the Arab confectionery industry. Preparations are under way for the seminar which will review working papers on the manufacture of confectioneries in Jordan and Iraq, according to AUFI

Secretary-General Dr. Fahad Sa'id Jaber.

He said that the participants will also discuss steps to convene the first regional conference on confectioneries.

The seminar will also be attended by representatives from Arab confectioners and chambers of industry and commerce. Dr. Jaber said.

JLA publishes Jordan's annual cultural register

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Library Association (JLA) has issued its 1982 Jordan National Bibliography, the yearly cultural register for Jordan. The 1982 issue includes descriptive information on Jordanian publications by written individual authors, as well as a list of official publications, academic theses, children's books and magazines published for the first time in 1982. The new issue includes 512 Arabic titles and 27 English ones.

Arabic literature covers a major area of the 1982 issue, where 101

titles have been included, while Islamic studies came second, including new 75 works. Educational topics cover 51, history and geography 40, economics 39, and public administration 35.

The Jordan Library Association has systematically issued an annual bibliography of Jordanian publications since 1979. JLA President Anwar Akrouh said the association is undertaking organisational steps to provide researchers and academic scholars with copies of the recently-issued bibliography.

Armouti to brief press

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jerash Festival Press Committee Tuesday invited Arab and foreign journalists participating in the festival events to a press conference at the Jerusalem Media Hotel 5:00 p.m.

Thursday.

Dr. Mazen Al Armouti festival director will brief the reporters on the final arrangements of the festival which will open August 15.



Prime Minister Mudar Badran Tuesday receives Abdul Jabbar Al Assadi at the Prime Ministry (Petra photo)

Badran meets visiting Iraqi transport minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran received in his office Tuesday Iraqi Minister of Transport and Communications Abdul Jabbar Al Assadi.

Mr. Badran discussed with Mr. Assadi, in a meeting attended by Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs and Minister of Transport Ali Suheimat, fraternal relations between Jordan and Iraq, and aspects of cooperation in the transportation and communications spheres.

The two sides also reviewed economic achievements registered by the Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company (JLTC) since its foundation in 1980, and its role in improving land transport between Jordan and Iraq.

Mr. Al Assadi reviewed with Minister of Communications and Telecommunication (TCC) Board of Directors Chairman Mohammad Al Zahen, steps for implementing the joint project for linking the Jordanian and Iraqi microwave systems, which is hoped to be operated early next year.

The two sides emphasised the significance of the project, which will expand the direct call service between the two countries, as well as improve regional direct call services with other Arab countries. Present direct call services are extremely oversubscribed making it

difficult to book calls.

The meeting was also attended by TCC Director-General Mohammad Shahid Ismail.

On Monday the JLTC board met at the Ministry of Transport to review the company's achievements.

The board meeting is chaired by Minister of Transport Ali Suheimat and his Iraqi counterpart Abdul Jabbar Al Assadi.

At the meeting, the two ministers paid tribute to the board members and directors for their efforts in promoting the progress and operations of the company.

According to JLTC board director Hashem Al Taher, the meeting, which is expected to last several days, coincides with the end of the present board's term of office on Aug. 28.

Pharmacists set up committee

By Gamini Akmeemana
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN (Petra) — The executive committee of the Arab Pharmacists' Union (APU) Tuesday resumed its meeting at the Professional Associations' Complex for a follow-up discussion on two draft proposals presented by the Jordanian Pharmacists' Association.

The session approved decisions taken at its last meeting and made some adjustments in the draft proposals before it which here then approved.

The APU committee discussed the situation in the occupied Arab territories and the position of Palestinian pharmacists in the occupied territories, where they are subjected to systematic repression by occupation authorities in an attempt to force them out of their homeland.

A decision on setting up an administrative committee for the Arab Fund for Supporting Scientific Research was also adopted during the session.

Those magnificent men in their rallying machines

By Gamini Akmeemana
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — At exactly 11:00 on Thursday the 11th, the first of 31 cars taking part in Jordan Rally 1983 will roar down the newly-built ramp in front of the Amman Marriott Hotel. Many (but not all) challengers want to win, knowing that only one of them can, and all want to make it back to the finish on Friday, approximately 1500 kilometres later — but not all are going to make it.

For the Jordan Rally 1983, the first in the new Middle East Challenge, is by all accounts one of the toughest in the world. Jordan has seen amateur rallies since the '50s, but even the 1981 national rally seems a far cry compared to this year's — and to find out how this had been achieved, and to find out something about the nature of this gruelling sport and those who take part in it, the Jordan Times interviewed organisers, drivers, navigators — and compiled this special report.

The driving force behind the Jordan Rally is the president of the Royal Automobile Club (RAC) in Jordan, Derek Ledger. A former rally car driver, Mr. Ledger is very much a man behind the scenes — but without him, rallying in Jordan could not have come so far so fast.

"The Jordan rally is now an international event to be reckoned with," Mr. Ledger says with quiet satisfaction. To realise the validity of this claim, you just have to look at the competition — the Audi Quattro is just about the only big name in rallying today which is missing from the rally.

Predictably enough, Japanese cars form the bulk of the entries — 20 out of 31. But much of the excitement is centred around the Opel Manta 400, and there are two of these, one from the Rothmans Opel Rally Team (Saeed Hajri and John Spiller), the other a private entry from Dubai (Mohammad Bin Sulayem and Hassan Ali Taleb).

There is one BMW 320i, one Vauxhall Chevette, one Opel Ascona, one Mercedes 200 among numerous Toyotas, Datsuns, Nissans and Dalhaus — there is even a Range Rover, and a monstrous GMC blazer among the 30.

Wide-range excitement

The wide range of competition is exciting, and even startling. And 17 are private entries, while the rest represent automobile dealers and other firms. The bulk of the entries are foreign. Thirteen Jordanian teams compete with 14 from the Gulf, three from Great Britain and one from Saudi Arabia.

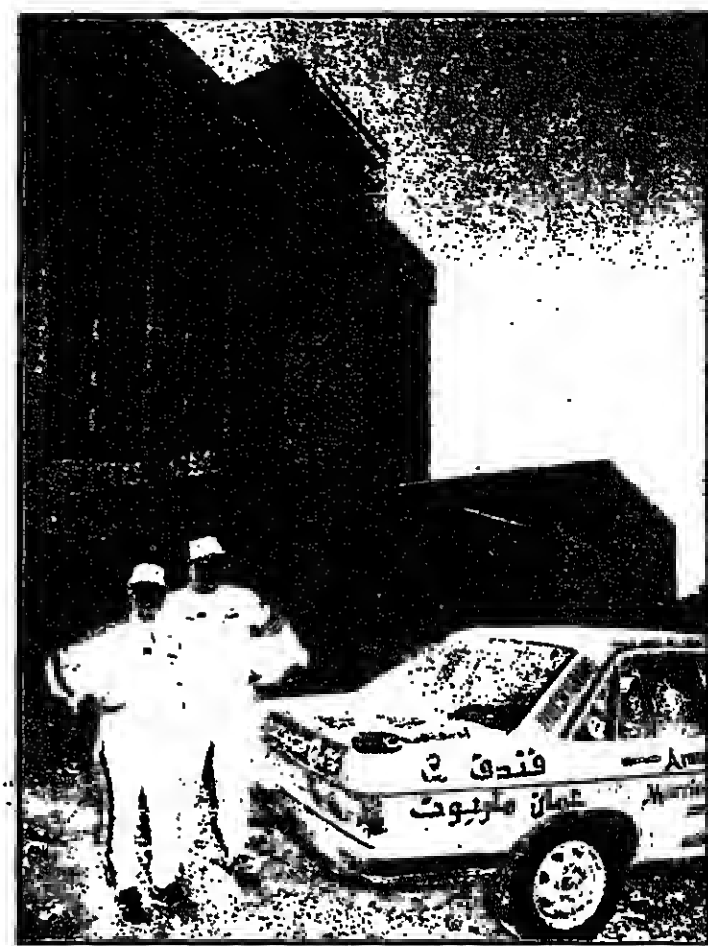
The rally takes two days, all things considered, but the RAC has been working for it since late last year. Basically, it is the work of a team of five men — Derek Ledger, Ghassan Asfour, Abdullah Al Khalil, Sebou Yerganian and Hraich Eiyemezian. They have mapped out trails, travelling over hundreds of kilometres of wilderness, trained about a hundred people to work for the rally — and above all, they have produced the two indispensable road books which contain details of the entire route, bend by bend, slope by slope, bump by bump.

Each navigator now knows this book, and the route, by heart. If not, he and his driver will be in big trouble on Thursday. You normally associate navigators with ships and aircraft, not with cars. The general understanding is that all it takes is a sober man behind the wheel to get there. But in rallies, it takes two to "drive" a car. The driver wouldn't get very far if the navigator doesn't feed him a constant flow of information about the shape of things ahead.

"It's a badly paid job," jokes David Orrick, who at 33 has 17 years of rally experience behind him, the last seven as a professional navigator. "But it's an honourable profession." David is Abdullah Omar Al Majid's (Dubai) navigator. They man one-half of the two-car Toyota Team Middle East (TTE). The other half is manned by Michel Saleh, winner of Jordan rallies 1981 and 1982, and his usual partner, fellow Lebanese Antoine Samia.

"No one knows what's going to happen," says Michel, when asked what he thinks of his chances to win the rally three in a row. "It depends upon God." But he thinks his chances are good, in contrast to some who would merely be happy to make it to the finish.

Besides his duties as the vice-chairman of the Kuwaiti Automobile Club, Michel works as an administrative manager for a Kuwaiti trading and contracting company; he doesn't depend upon rallying for a living. "But it's in my blood," he says. "And my boss is helpful, so I have the time



Haile Aguiar and Teresita Aguiar with their Audi in 1981

to drive in rallies."

"It's teamwork that counts," insists team-mate Abdullah, who at 25 holds the top honours in Dubai rally driving. "We have no competition within the team. What counts is that the team wins." Dust-caked men in shorts and T-shirts are a familiar sight in the Amman Marriott lobby nowadays, but looking at Abdullah, dressed in a spotless white national dress, and David, impeccably British, you would find it hard to guess that they've just returned to the hotel from a hard day's driving in the desert.

Still, some problems

Some are not so lucky. Just three days before the rally, some cars are still waiting for the blessings of the customs, including the Opel Manta of Mohammad Bin Sulayem. He has brought along a private team of eight — West Germans, British and Dubs — and now they fume because everything — the car which they have yet to test, the spare parts and even the spare wheels — is agonisingly near and yet beyond reach. "I hope we have the car by Thursday," says Mohammad grimly.

These are unforeseen calamities which even the resourceful Royal Automobile Club finds it tough to cope with. By all accounts, it has done a superb job of organising, producing a rally which can claim to be the best-organised in the Middle East. There are the teething problems, and for some, at least, the organisers can't be blamed. For example, a common complaint that the 98 Octane petrol needed for the cars is scarce.

Great achievement

"Jordan can be proud of this rally," says Mr. Haile Aguiar, the general manager of the Amman Marriott — the major sponsor of the rally. Considering the inherent organisational problems, the rally is a stupendous achievement. Over a thousand people — Army, Civil Defence, health services, — will be involved in a tightly-knit schedule to make sure that the rally starts, continues and ends according to plan.

Mr. Aguiar, an Uruguayan-born, Argentinian bred U.S. citizen, and winner of the 1959 Argentine Grand Prix, will be driving a Toyota Corolla on Thursday, with his son Fitz as navigator. Mr. Aguiar, who drove an Audi Quattro in last

year's Jordan Rally, insists that winning isn't everything. "To go all out to win isn't sportsmanship," Mr. Aguiar insists. Incidentally, the first all-woman team in the Jordan Rally consists of Mrs. Teresita Aguiar and Mrs. Gloria Bataineh, in their Datsun 210. In this sport as in others, winner-take-nothing is hardly the case, and winning is undoubtedly on agreeable feeling, considering the stakes involved. "It is a sport of nerves," says Abdullah Omar Al Majid. "I don't mean you are nervous while driving. But you do things by instinct. Sometimes there is no time to think and if you do something wrong, you are out of the rally."

But Mr. Aguiar voices a generally-held opinion when he says that rallying isn't a dangerous sport. "Not with the way rally cars are built nowadays," he says. "A rally is primarily a reliability test, not a race. There are special stages for racing, but on asphalt roads, rally drivers observe speed limits and generally behave themselves better than thousands of nine-to-five drivers."

Britain David Evans with his Vauxhall Chevette has been exceptionally "unfortunate" in this case, for he's had to pay a fine of \$1 JD to the Amman traffic police, and only the prestige of the rally saved him from a night in jail. Nor are David Orrick's experiences in rallying typical — incidents like being nearly expelled from South Africa for attending a party given by black mechanics or being shot at by the Khmer Rouge in Thailand.

Despite all that, David Orrick, who is the president of Garstang and District Motor Club in his hometown, remains dedicated — and idealistic. "Sports, like music or drama, brings people together," he insists. "There are those who go to a race just to see someone getting hurt," he says. "But these are the exceptions. Sport always produces a good feeling, whether you take part or watch."

One thing everybody's agreed upon is that this rally is really tough. There are 24 special stages, over 900 kilometres, about 65 per cent of the total length. A comparable distance is the Acropolis Rally in Greece, with about 900 kilometres in special stages — but a car has four days in which to cover that distance. The Jordan Rally takes just two days.

If you are mystified about what makes these men (and women) mad about rallying, this weekend you have your chance to find out. But here's a piece of advice — whether you intend to take part or watch, don't do it from the backseat of a rally car!



British navigator David Orrick: "It's a poorly-paid job, but honourable."

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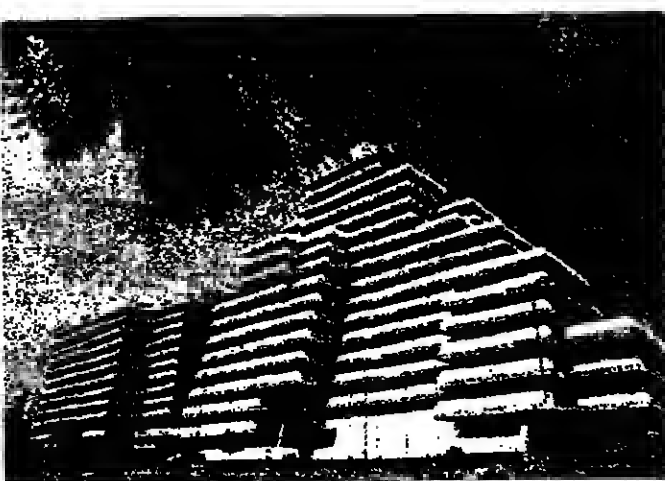
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Win here, losses there

IN THE aftermath of Washington's latest and most dangerous posture on the question of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories, we do not see why any Arab should lift one finger in aid of American policies in the Middle East.

If the U.S. is truly and genuinely trying to help Lebanon restore its sovereignty and independence, it still has no right whatsoever to proceed in that direction at our own expense. And then, who could believe that America's blessing of the projected Israeli partial withdrawal from Lebanon, would actually help the Lebanese quest for peace.

In Israel for the past several days, politicians have been toying with the idea of separating Israeli and Syrian forces in Lebanon; and the Begin government seems to have succeeded in convincing the U.S. administration — the U.S. special envoy, Robert McFarlane, in particular — to carry suggestions of a military disengagement to Damascus. Syria is reported to have rejected the pact after Mr. McFarlane's round of talks there Monday, but there is no sign yet that the Americans have given up on the idea yet.

The Israelis would naturally be keen to get the U.S. envoy involved in mediation efforts over a separation of forces in the Bekaa Valley. Such an agreement, if successfully concluded, would help further reduce Israeli casualties in Lebanon and would also greatly reduce the chances of a flare-up between the two opposing armies there. What is more, a pact of this sort would serve to consecrate the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon as well as turn the U.S. attention completely from the real issues facing Lebanon and the rest of the occupied Arab territories.

This talk, however, brings us back to question the basic issue of just what the new American envoy to the Middle East is trying to do. Evidently, Mr. McFarlane is not that much interested in his government's policy towards Israel's continued Judaisation of the West Bank and even less so in achieving Palestinian rights, although he is supposed to assume Philip Habib's full role in the search for a comprehensive Middle East settlement. His credentials suggest that he cannot go much beyond arranging military disengagements and arrangements. So, what should we expect from him? And, how far are we Arabs expected to help the U.S. achieve political success, if it ever will, at our own expense?

Lebanon is extremely important to us, and we all want it to survive and prosper. But it is also very much an integral part of the Arab World, and the Americans should know that they cannot make us win a round here only to lose a thousand there.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: U.S. encourages new settlements

U.S. SECRETARY of State George Shultz did not tell the Truth in his statement two days ago that Washington was still committed to its policy regarding Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab lands. Any observers of the American administration's policies in the past must have realised how it repeatedly went back on its official pronouncements regarding the settlements. There is a real danger in this American approach not only where the Palestinian people's rights are concerned but also to U.S. credibility. Before Reagan became president, Washington had on several occasions stressed the "illegitimacy" of the Israeli settlements and its opposition to the annexation of other nations' property by force in accordance with the U.N. charter. But when Mr. Reagan was elected president the U.S. began to go back on his declared policies. The new administration stated that these settlements constituted "an obstacle" to peace and later Washington said that the presence of these settlements does not help create an opportunity for a peace settlement. Of course there is a big difference between "non-legitimacy" of the settlements and their being termed a mere "obstacle" to peace.

We had originally welcomed President Reagan's initiative in which he called for the freezing of settlements because we thought that the freeze would be the first step towards the removal of the settlements. But it seems from Israel's escalation of its policy that Washington either does not care any more or does not consider this an "illegitimate" action, something which is bound to encourage the Zionist state to pursue its policies indefinitely.

Al Dustour: Israel gets green light

SUNDAY'S STATEMENT by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on Israel's settlements in the occupied Arab territory clearly reflect a change in the American administration's stand toward this problem which is regarded as the major obstacle in the path of peace. Though Shultz stressed that the U.S. attitude towards settlements in the West Bank has not changed, he implied an overt bias towards the Israeli government's policies. Thus Shultz's statement was clearly in line with the American administration's new policy so evidently manifested or the recent veto in the U.N. Security Council meeting on the situation in Hebron. This American bias was welcomed by Israeli government leaders who considered it as proof of Washington's support for Israel and its settlement policy. Shultz's acceptance of the principle which states that Jews have the right to live in the West Bank. Is merely an echo of Zionist extremists claims in this respect.

Sawt Al Shaab: Fully fledged enemy

EVERY TIME THERE is a presidential election in the United States both the Republicans and the Democrats vie to win over the votes of the Jewish community by making promises to Israel or making statements that please the Zionist lobby and Israel's rulers. The leaders of both parties realise that the key to the presidency lies in Israel's hands and the Jewish vote. The Zionists have been able over the years to exploit such promises and pre-election statements for the benefit of Israel and of course at the expense of the Arabs.

Secretary of State George Shultz's statement Sunday that he does not support the idea of dismantling Israeli settlements is the best expression of the present administration's policy and its attempts to win over the votes of the Jewish community. It is natural that the Israeli rulers should be delighted with such statements and that the Arabs should be furious since this constitutes a direct challenge to their legitimate rights. The United States, which some Arabs regard as a partner in the quest for peace, is in reality nothing but a fully fledged enemy.

U.S. balancing reassurance with military show

By Jim Adams
 Reuter

WASHINGTON — President Reagan and his aides are balancing a dramatic show of military resolve in Central America with reassurances at home that they are not risking U.S. entanglement in a regional war.

Secretary of State George Shultz told senators this week that U.S. military policy, including manœuvres in the Pacific off Nicaragua, helped spur current peace efforts in the region.

At a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on Thursday, he called the planned sea and land battle exercises a credible show of U.S. "capability to muster a protective shield in the face of any challenge."

At the same time, he assured the senators that U.S. forces would not engage in combat if hostilities developed during the exercises over the next few months and instead would withdraw.

But some senators said they were still worried about slipping into war and polls showed that many Americans, for whom Vietnam remains a vivid memory, shared this fear.

"You can't have it both ways," Jemoat Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island told Mr. Shultz at the hearing.

"You can't scare the Cubans and Nicaraguans and still expect to reassure the American people that the United States will not be drawn into another bloody conflict," Mr. Pell said.

A Washington Post newspaper

poll this week found that 54 per cent of the readers interviewed did indeed believe Mr. Reagan's policy was leading to U.S. involvement in war.

But 39 per cent thought Mr. Reagan's policy would keep U.S. forces out of war, and some of those who said they feared war did not think it would be as bad as the one in Vietnam.

Efforts to reassure the public and a critical Congress began with Mr. Reagan's news conference. He and Mr. Shultz followed up in private meetings with congressional leaders who briefed reporters afterwards, and Mr. Shultz underscored the position in his public testimony before the senators.

Mr. Shultz said the U.S. strategy was to show a resolve so strong that rebels supplied by Cuba, Nicaragua and the Soviet Union would see they could not take over El Salvador and the rest of Central America by force and would thus have to negotiate.

Mr. Shultz said that the strategy "is showing results."

"A victory by the far left and its foreign supporters through armed force is not in the cards," he said. "Our adversaries' options — which have so far stressed force — must be narrowed toward negotiation and dialogue."

At the same time, he said the basis was being laid for vigorous U.S.-aided economic growth in Central America once the shooting stops.

But Mr. Shultz cautioned that negotiating a peaceful settlement

would be difficult despite hopeful signs in recent weeks.

During that time, Cuban President Fidel Castro and Nicaraguan junta member Daniel Ortega have offered to negotiate a withdrawal of foreign forces from the region and a halt of arms shipments to the rebel and government fighters.

And Mr. Reagan's special envoy, Richard Stone, met a Salvadoran rebel leader and Nicaraguan officials in an effort to bring about peace talks.

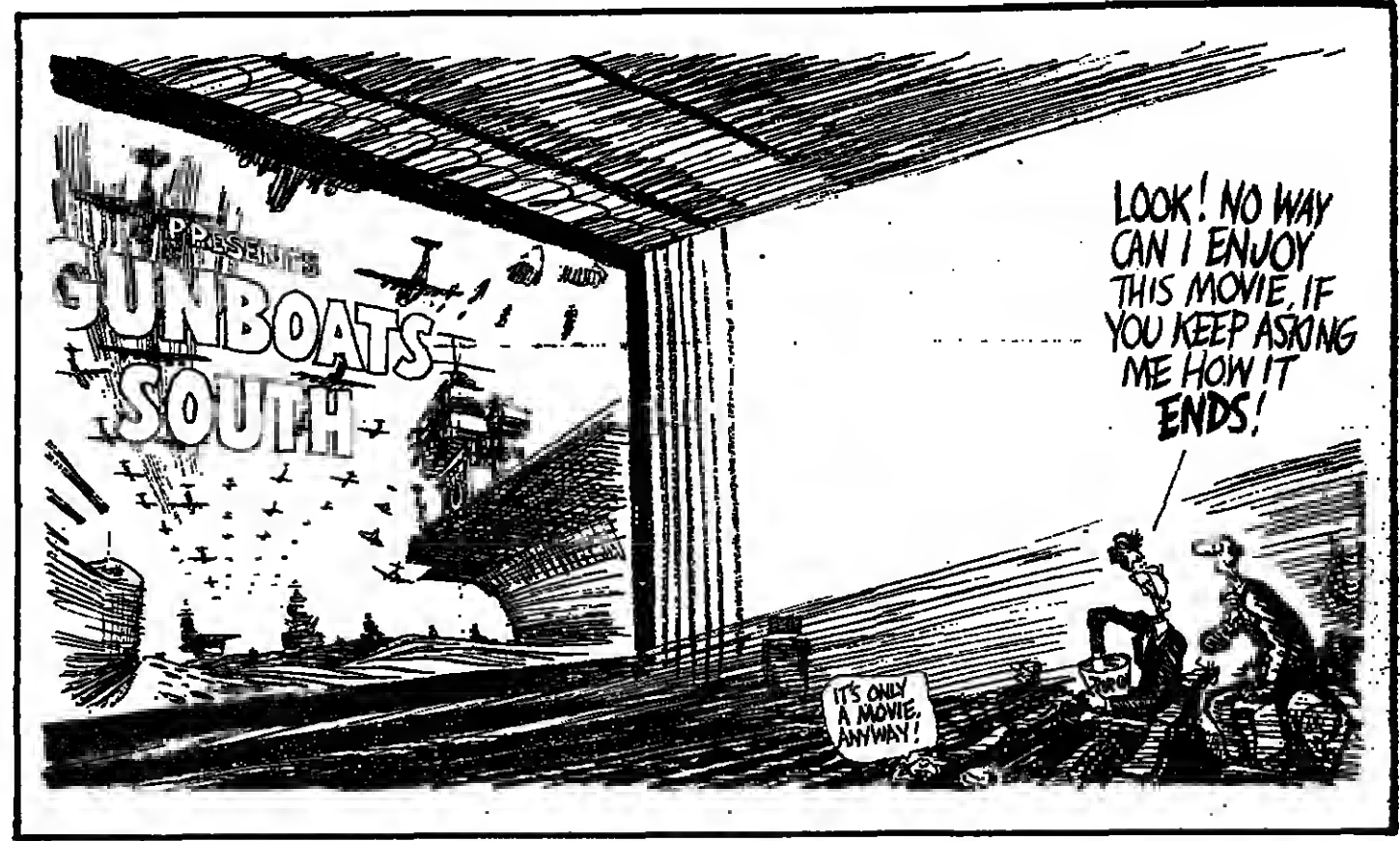
Mr. Shultz said Mr. Stone was trying to bring about direct talks between the Salvadoran Peace Commission and the rebels on their participation in Salvadoran

elections. Mr. Shultz reiterated that the United States would be willing to withdraw its advisers and halt its arms supplies to El Salvador if it could win a verifiable agreement that Nicaragua, Cuba and the Soviet bloc would do the same.

Congressional leaders quoted Mr. Shultz as telling them at a pri-

vate breakfast that he was studying the Cuban and Nicaraguan peace offers to determine if they were sincere.

A senior U.S. official said there was some doubt in the administration about whether Dr. Castro was ready to negotiate. "We have been down that road before — and been rebuffed," he said.



Lim's resignation raises question of Singapore's leadership succession

By Francis Daniel
 Reuter

SINGAPORE — A Harvard-educated technocrat who had climbed fast in Singapore politics under the firm guidance of Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew has fallen suddenly from Mr. Lee's grace over issues that remain clouded.

After being thrust into the limelight six years ago and once regarded as a potential candidate to take over from Mr. Lee, Mr. Lim Chee Onn's political career now seems to have been wrecked.

Mr. Lim, among a handful of young professionals handpicked by Mr. Lee for high office, was the chief of the government-backed National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) and a cabinet minister. Last month, the day before he

turned 39, Mr. Lim announced his resignation from the cabinet as sequel to his earlier dismissal from the NTU by the prime minister.

It is not clear what effect the sudden move against Mr. Lim will have on the government's much publicised programme to groom a new generation of political leadership and a possible successor to Mr. Lee.

Political sources said Mr. Lim was likely to give up his post as vice-chairman of the ruling People's Action Party (PAP).

Mr. Lim is expected to retain his seat in the PAP-dominated parliament but the sources doubt he would be allowed to stand under the PAP banner in the general election due next year.

Mr. Lim's aborted political career is not expected to cause any

major upset here although opinion was divided within the PAP over the prospects of attracting professional talent into its ranks in the future.

Some party cadres said Mr. Lim's sudden political demise would reinforce the fear of failure among bright young Singaporeans now being persuaded to go into politics.

But some members of the well-disciplined PAP hierarchy maintained those who now opted to go into politics here would be more sensitive to the realities of public life.

Mr. Lim was publicly chastised and sacked by the prime minister for his alleged failure to maintain a cooperative relationship between old guards and newly-appointed professionals in the NTUC, the central organisation controlling all

labour union activities on the island.

Political analysts say that Mr. Lim, at the helm of the only mass organisation outside the PAP, had built considerable support within and outside the NTUC.

His close associates, including members of the so-called second generation still under Mr. Lee's tutelage, praised him for his efforts in restructuring the trade union movement in line with government policy.

The English-language newspapers here, which follow the government line, suggested that Mr. Lim's abrupt exit could have more to it than his failure as a labour leader.

But Mr. Lim himself had been discreetly silent. Mr. Lim is not the only "second

generation" leader who had to leave the political stage unable to meet the exacting standards of Mr. Lee. But he is the only young technocrat who managed to rise to cabinet rank and then fall.

The Lim episode demonstrates that Mr. Lee, who turns 60 on Sept. 16, is very much in command although he has entrusted much of the day-to-day running of the government to half a dozen young technocrats still under his grooming.

But the downfall of perhaps the most promising among them raises the crucial question: Will Mr. Lee be able to find a young successor to whom he can bequeath his mantle by 1990, the target he has set himself for a change of guard.

Mr. Lee has made clear that

anyone aspiring to step into his shoes must be tough and maintain a firm grip on the reins of power, never allowing an opposition to jeopardise what he and his colleagues have built up over the past two decades.

Under Mr. Lee's rule, the PAP has maintained its total dominance, keeping all the opposition groups in disarray.

But the first crack in the PAP political stranglehold came in 1981 when the Workers Party managed to win a by-election gaining a voice for the opposition in parliament for the first time in 16 years.

The PAP has redoubled its efforts with its younger generation leaders taking a major share of public campaigning with Mr. Lee and his colleagues keeping a watchful eye.

Sri Lanka's separatist ban could boost guerrilla position

By Jeremy Clift
 Reuter

MADRAS, India — Sri Lanka's ban on separatist parties is likely to drive underground the political aspirations of the island's minority Tamil community and strengthen the hand of the guerrilla movement, Tamil leaders and Western diplomatic analysts say.

Tamil leaders, interviewed in the northern Sri Lankan city of Jaffna, told Reuters they felt the ban passed by parliament in Colombo last week after ethnic violence could assist the guerrillas, known as "The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam".

Leaders of the main Tamil political party in Sri Lanka said they were looking to India for help, particularly by putting diplomatic pressure on the government of President Junius Jayawardene to adopt a more conciliatory line towards them.

After a telephone conversation with Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, the 77-year-old president was sending his brother to New Delhi for talks with the Indian government.

Sri Lankan government ministers said in parliament the constitutional amendment to outlaw those advocating separatism was especially aimed against the main party of the island's minority community, the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF).

The amendment was passed after communal violence in which more than 300 people were killed and hundreds of Tamil shops and homes were destroyed.

Mr. Jayawardene announced the ban, saying the island's majority Sinhalese population would never allow Sri Lanka to be divided.

TULF, with 16 members in the 168-seat assembly, is the largest opposition group to parliament and has been campaigning for a separate Tamil state in the north and east of the island.

It denies any link with the "Tigers," who have been outlawed for the past four years. They launched a new series of attacks on government offices, trains and buses about three months ago, ending in the killing of 13 army soldiers in

Jaffna on July 23.

These deaths sparked a chain reaction of reprisals by the Sinhalese in Colombo and several other towns across the island.

Under the new legislation, members of parliament will have to take an oath against separatism within 30 days of the inauguration of the new assembly.

Those who refuse to pledge allegiance to a unitary state or violate the ban on separatism face heavy penalties, including expulsion from parliament, loss of civil rights for seven years and forfeiture of property.

Sri Lanka has about 15 million people, of whom some 2.5 million are Tamils. The majority Sinhalese are Buddhists, while the Tamils are Hindu with strong links with India.

TULF members decided at the weekend to boycott parliament in view of the new law, a party spokesman said.

The party had been divided over whether to stay away from the assembly or modify the group's publicly stated objective of an independent state to something like autonomy in order to retain a voice in parliament.

Party General Secretary Appalal Amirthalingam said in an interview that the government was playing into the hands of the guerrillas by outlawing TULF.

In Colombo, a Western diplomat said he believed the guerrillas would be strengthened as Tamil political aspirations would no longer have a legal voice, while a top Tamil official in Jaffna said: "I would expect the Tigers would have more support with the banning of TULF."

Informed Tamil sources said the Tigers were mostly young students who had taken to the gun because they were disillusioned by alleged second class treatment of the Tamils.

Hardcore guerrillas are believed to number only around 200 and to be divided into several groups. They carried out a series of raids before the critical July 23 attack and trains to Jaffna were stopped in early July after 10 trucks were set ablaze.

The unrest in the northern province forced the government to

adopt tough emergency powers, including arrest and detention without trial, the use of confessions in court and no post-mortems or inquests after shootings by security forces.

People in the city of Jaffna said the army went on the rampage through its narrow streets after the 13 soldiers died.

According to the government, 20 civilians were shot dead, TULF puts the figure at around 40. "Most people don't sympathise with the Tigers, but they dislike the army and the police more," said one Tamil government source in the city of 800,000 people.

He felt that, with the banning of TULF and little sign of co-operation on the government's part, there was an impasse from which the guerrillas would benefit.

TULF members said an absence of guerrilla action in Jaffna since July 23 was intended to avoid possible reprisals on Tamil refugees. Some 79,000 Tamils lost their homes in the violence.

A source connected with the guerrillas said: "We don't want a Lebanese-style massacre in a Colombo (refugee) camp."

TULF leaders hope India will be able to persuade Mr. Jayawardene to adopt a more conciliatory approach to give them room for negotiation.

But government ministers in Colombo are encouraging the Tamils outside Jaffna to come out openly against separatism. "They should state positively that they are not for separatism. They have remained silent too long," said Trade and Shipping Minister Lalith Athulathmudali.

But the Tamil community is divided, with many rejecting the demand for an independent state, or Eelam.

Those backing the Eelam call, known as the Ceylon Tamils, number around 1.4 million. They live mostly in the north and east after crossing to the island several centuries ago.

The others, known as Indian Tamils, were brought across from India in the last century by the British to work on the tea estates and plantations. Most of them reject the idea of Eelam and support Mr. Jayawardene's ruling United National Party.

مكة من الأصغر

American journalist challenges Kahan Commission's findings

If the journalists could see, why not the Israelis?

By Muhammad Azhar Ali Khan

A veteran American journalist has challenged the Kahan Commission's finding that Israeli officers did not really see the massacre at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Beirut.

He says: "To be sure, Sharon conceded that Israeli troops coordinated, planned and monitored the operation, then did nothing to stop the killing clearly visible around the clock (thanks to flares and audible from Israeli positions surrounding the camps). (In its only obviously wrongheaded factual error, the Kahan Report insisted Israeli troops couldn't see into the camp's alleyways, even with giant telescopes on the command-post roof. Journalists who climbed the

seven-story building had no such difficulty with their own naked eyes). The statement comes from Jonathan C. Randall, the senior foreign correspondent of the Washington Post. It appears in his book, *Going All the Way: Christian Warlords, Israeli Adventurers and the War in Lebanon*.

The author saw the 1982 Lebanon war first-hand. He describes it in blunt, vivid terms: "What started out as controlled violence save way to full-fledged conventional warfare by 1982, when the Israelis invaded the country and routinely employed fighter-bombers, heavy artillery, and naval gunfire against residential areas of the capital. Cluster bombs, incapacitating gas, white phosphorus, 'smart' bombs were

all used. Much of this ordnance was American, and so was much of the responsibility for what happened in Lebanon. But the United States at times seemed interested less in acknowledging that aspect of its aid to Israel than in learning the battlefield effectiveness of its weaponry. Even when the United States ordered a ban on new deliveries of cluster bombs, the shipments kept arriving."

The author vehemently denounces what he calls Israel's increasingly aggressive and imperialistic policies toward the Arabs. He traces the Israeli design on Lebanon to the early 1950s and quotes from the then Prime Minister Moshe Sharett's diaries, which, in turn, quote David Ben-Gurion, Moshe Dayan, and

other Israeli leaders on what should be done in Lebanon. In time, says the author, what they had suggested was invariably done.

Randall blames the U.S. for turning a blind eye to Israeli excesses and for providing Israel with the military, diplomatic and political support that made repeated aggression possible. He doesn't refer merely to the 1982 war, but to Israeli attacks on Lebanon in earlier years also and mentions atrocities committed by Israeli troops in operations years before 1982.

Randall also points out that, though Syrian forces had originally intervened in Lebanon with U.S. and Israeli backing to save the Christians from defeat, they ultimately became unpopular

with all sections of the Lebanese population and were seen not as peacekeepers but an army of occupation.

The correspondent also refers to the mistakes of Lebanese Muslims, including the Druze. Their uncompromising attitude in the later years of the civil war resulted in most Christian factions of Lebanon joining together and seeking help wherever they could get them.

But, among the Lebanese, the author blames mostly the Christian Maronites for their destructive ways that brought enormous sufferings to them -- and in their countrymen of all faiths. He says: "We built Lebanon and we will burn it" became the defiant Maronite justification for fas-

tering destruction rather than yielding to leftist demands for timid economic reforms, Muslim requests for a larger share of political power. If this wasn't national suicide, it was the next best thing."

Randall takes a searching look at Lebanon, not only since 1945 but at its evolution through history, and especially the evolution of the Maronite community. He describes the Maronites' internal rivalry and their lights, and alliances, with outsiders.

In what must be one of the best books on Lebanon, -- in terms of information, analysis, and readability -- Randall describes the rise and now the paralysis of a lovely country.

One would expect that such a well-informed writer would offer

some thoughts on how he thinks events will turn out henceforth.

Says he: "Out of pure journalistic sixth sense, during a week's visit in September 1974, I had predicted the coming civil war in print -- and was banned from Lebanon until my prophecy came true a half year later. Even I had never imagined that violence could so delight in seemingly endless variations, trapping the forces in Lebanese society and the entire Middle East in shifting alliances. Perhaps because I had a reporter's mind and not a novelist's, lack a mathematical sense for permutations, and knew little about Lebanon or the Arab World, I discovered the limitations of my craft. At the same time, the Lebanese, suffering from similar fail-

ings and some others, not entirely unwittingly blew up their country, with a little help from their friends and neighbours. Well before the first year of fighting was over, the Lebanese were no longer calling the shots. All manner of foreigners were. But the Lebanese, on going all the way, they still are, and they give no signs yet of having exhausted all the possibilities."

Going All the Way: Christian Warlords, Israeli Adventurers and the War in Lebanon published by the U.S. by the Viking Press, New York and in Canada by Penguin Books Ltd. Pages: 300 and price \$22.95

--Arab News



Some of the victims of the Sabra and Shatila massacre. Randall challenges Kahan Commission's contention that the Israeli officers did not see the massacre.



A Palestinian refugee family find shelter in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters during Israel's drive into west Beirut.

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SPORTS

Moses destroys hurdles opposition again

HELSINKI (R) — Ed Moses, prince of Hurdles, turned the rest of the field into also-rans here Tuesday as he surged to victory in the 400 metres hurdles final at the World Athletics Championships.

Not even a loose lace flapping from his left running shoe could diminish the regal triumph of the peerless world record-holder.

The 1976 Olympic champion raced home in 47.50 seconds to win by more than a second from West German European Champion Harald Schmid and Alexander Kharlov of the Soviet Union.

Schmid was the last man to beat

Moses six years ago, but the West German, running in lane seven with Moses in lane two, never looked like troubling the tall powerful American from Laguna Beach, California.

The bearded Moses oozed confidence as he strode up and down the Olympic stadium track before the start looking as if he owed the place.

Schmid must have felt even more alone and exposed when Moses and team-mates Andre Phillips and David Lee went into a trance-like huddle before the start.

The red-vested trio spent some

30 seconds, turned in on themselves, arms linked as if in a rite of secret communion.

But Moses clearly meant business as he burst from his blocks, cutting back on the stagger and devouring the track with giant strides.

The most durable and consistent track athlete of his generation had destroyed anything which might have masqueraded as a challenge before the race was half over to record his 83rd consecutive win and become the first athlete to win an Olympic and World Championship gold.

He looked down, perhaps to upbraid his disobedient shoe-lace, as he crossed the line six metres clear of Schmid, with Kharlov—dragged along in the inside lane in Moses's wake—claiming the bronze.

The man, who came to Helsinki owning nine of the 10 best times ever recorded in the event, ran a lap of honour to acknowledge the cheers of some 50,000 fans in the sunlit stadium.

The U.S. boycott prevented Moses retaining his Olympic title in Moscow in 1980. But nothing could stop him in Helsinki.

Moses said of his aberrant shoe-lace, "I saw it pop up in my face before the eighth hurdle. I usually tie a double-knot. I thought the first knot was still tied."

"I thought about it for a second, no more. Once it has become untied, what can you do?"

Moses, who remained outside his 1980 world mark of 47.13, said he did not feel firmly ahead until the seventh of the 10 flights of hurdles.

Schmid said: "I lost my rhythm at the eighth hurdle. I went from 13 to 14 strides and that made me lose a lot of speed."

The West German said it was a

delight to run with Moses.

Czechoslovak powerhouse Jarmila Kratochvilova performed an amazing feat of endurance by winning the women's 800 metres gold medal barely half an hour after running in first in a 400 metres semifinal.

Kratochvilova, who set a world record two weeks ago in Munich in only her fourth 800 metres, trailed two Soviet runners at the bell but had plenty to spare as she entered the final lap.

She picked off her last Soviet rival at the top of the back straight and stretched away inexorably to win by 10 metres in one minute 54.68 seconds—1.40 seconds outside her world mark—from Liubov Gurina of the Soviet Union.

The white-vested Czechoslovak still had enough energy to keep her arms raised aloft in triumph, until every photographer had recorded her salute.

She has already run six races in the championships and it would take a brave punter to bet against her completing a golden double in Wednesday's final.

The benefit of an exceptionally tough training programme turned her from a good average runner into a formidable competitor and lifted her from obscurity to an Olympic 400 metres silver medal at the Moscow Games.

But if Kratochvilova's victory was clear-cut, the men's 800 metres was a frantic tussle, won finally by a fierce surge from West German Willi Wuebeck down the final straight.

Wuebeck battled past 20-year-old Brazilian Joaquim Cruz, who led a close-bunched field round the final bend, to clinch the gold medal.

The fair-haired West German has won the 800 metres at his national championships a record 10 consecutive times but his only major international success until

Tuesday was a European Cup victory in Rome in 1977.

The tall 28-year-old from Oberhausen timed his attack to perfection Tuesday after Britain's Peter Elliott and Cruz had fought for the lead from the bell to the top of the back straight.

Cruz finally broke Elliott, bravely shouldering the British challenge in the absence of world record-holder Sebastian Coe, as they rounded the bend.

But the lanky Brazilian, once a shoe-shine boy in the Brasilia satellite town of Taguatinga, was still to be denied.

Wuebeck roared past him on the home straight to win in 1:43.65 as Dutchman Rob Druppers, leaving his challenge too late to catch the West German, overhauled the Brazilian to snatch the silver.

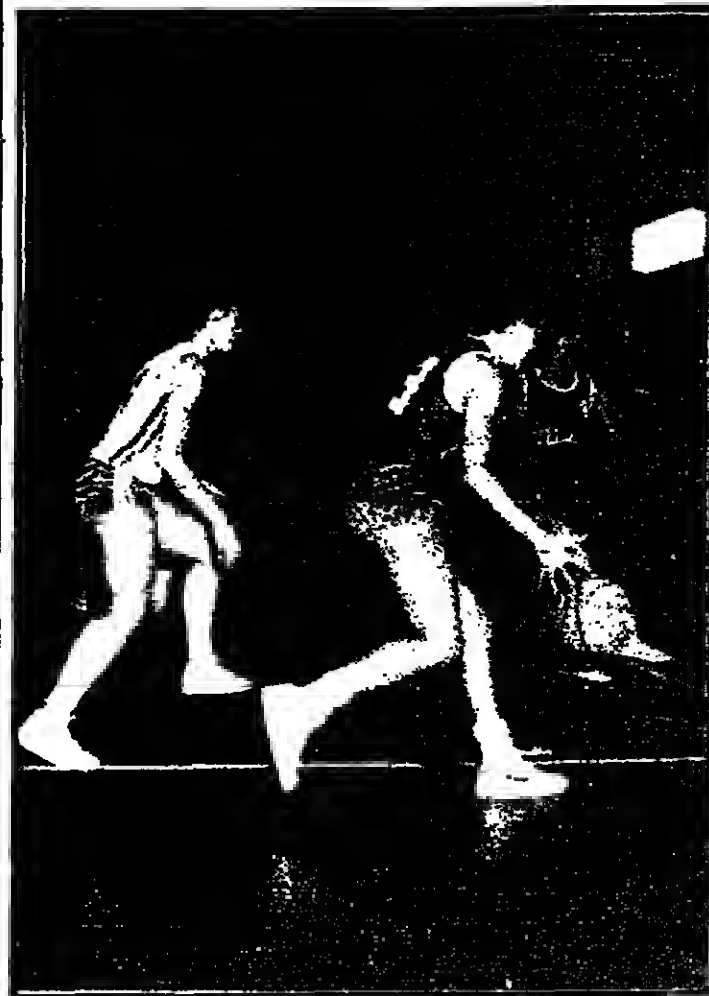
European Champion Alberto Cova brought Italy their first gold medal of the championships, snatching victory in a nerve-shredding 10,000 metres final which had looked certain to fall to East Germany.

East German Werner Schildhauer burst out of the pack at the bell, lifting the tempo to open a lead into the back straight.

Blond team-mate Hans-Joerg Kunze, Finnish former European Champion Martti Vainio and Tanzanian Commonwealth Champion Gidemus Shahanga pursued him up the straight.

As they charged off the final bend, the two big East Germans in the inside lanes looked headed for victory, but the slight Italian, entering the picture for virtually the first time, found another gear which carried him through to victory in 28 minutes 1.04 seconds.

Cova, dark and moustachioed, whose finishing burst was reminiscent of his European Championship win in Athens last September, punched the air in triumph and ran off clutching an Italian flag.



Lebanese women on the attack in their match against Iraq.

Jordan, Tunisia lead groups

AMMAN (J.T.) — After the sixth day of the Fifth Arab Basketball Championship, on Tuesday Lebanon beat Somalia 90/66 a good performance by the Lebanese. Saudi Arabia beat Palestine in men's competition.

In women's competition Iraq beat Lebanon 59/54 Somalia beat Jordan 88/59 in the semifinals.

The Iraqi women's team will be playing Jordan on Wednesday. If they lose they will be playing Somalia and Lebanon for the finals. If they beat Jordan they will be immediately leading their group.

In men's competition Jordan now leads Group 1 and Tunisia leads Group 2. Jordan will be playing Iraq Wednesday. Tunisia will play Saudi Arabia and the winners in these games will play the final.

The losers will be playing for the third and fourth position in the Fifth Arab Basketball Championship which is held at the Sport City's Sport Palace.

Boxing promoter begins 10-year sentence

LOS ANGELES (R) — Promoter Harold Rossfields Smith, who tried to take over the U.S. boxing world with lavish purses, Tuesday began serving a 10-year prison sentence for conspiring to embezzle \$21.3 million from a bank.

Smith, 40, wearing a cowboy hat and carrying three books, entered the U.S. marshal's office in Los Angeles Tuesday to begin serving his sentence, a spokeswoman for the office said. "We

are keeping him for the present in our lock-up," she said.

A former rock music promoter, Smith emerged from obscurity in 1978 to become one of the most powerful promoters in professional boxing with a seemingly unlimited amount of money to pay in purses.

He became chairman of Muhammad Ali Professional Sports Organisation. Police said Ali, former world heavyweight boxing champion, received a fee for the use of his name but there was no evidence he was involved in any wrongdoing.

Of 23 fights staged by Smith's organisation, none was listed as making a profit.

Smith was convicted of 29 counts of embezzlement, conspiracy and interstate transportation of property taken by fraud.

A second accused in the case, Sammie Marshall, a former official of the defrauded bank, Wells Fargo, was sentenced to three years imprisonment on three counts in connection with the alleged scheme.

The indictment alleged Smith arranged with Marshall and another

former bank official, who appeared as a prosecution witness, to "divert and secrete" cheques that Smith cashed at a branch of the bank—which takes its name from an old western stagecoach line—so they would not be charged against his account.

Fictitious bank entries were made so it would appear funds credited to Smith were transferred from another branch of the bank, the indictment alleged.

Sports writers have estimated Smith spent \$21 million promoting fights, offering purses his opponents could not match.

World heavyweight boxing champion Larry Holmes said during Smith's trial that, in an unsuccessful attempt to persuade him to sign a contract, the Smith organisation offered him a bag of cash and cheques totalling \$900,000.

A little known heavyweight, Eddie Lopez, received \$100,000 for a fight promoted by Smith.

JORDAN TIMES
Tel: 666265
666320



Edwin Moses on his way to winning 400m hurdles. (A.P. wirephoto)

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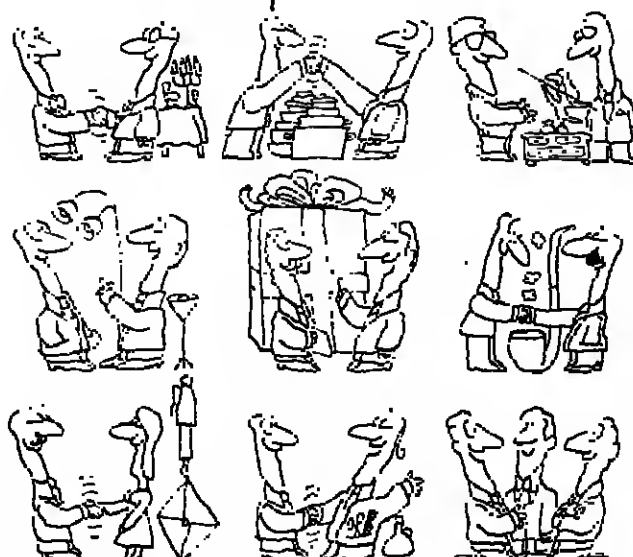
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Inefficiency plagues Soviet grain harvest

MOSCOW (R) — Transport problems and inefficient planning continue to plague the Soviet harvest, with the result that thousands of tonnes of produce still rot on station platforms, the official daily Pravda said Tuesday.

"In major industrial centres tens of thousands of freight cars laden with highly perishable goods accumulate at the railway stations waiting to be unloaded. And in mid-July more than one thousand refrigerated cars stood idle," Pravda said.

In the first six months of this year, the number of freight wagons standing idle had twice gone above the number planned.

Western experts have predicted a grain harvest of some 200 million tonnes in the Soviet Union this year, the best for five years. But the Kremlin is clearly aware that this is not good enough, particularly if much is wasted through carelessness.

Regional supply plans drawn up by the fruit and vegetable ministry verged on the ridiculous in their use of transport, Pravda said.

Tomatoes from Central Asia and southern Russia were being shipped to the Baltic republics and Byelorussia in the west of the country while those from the western republic of Moldavia were being sent to the Ural mountain area and Siberia it said.

Meanwhile, collective farms lag behind schedule with the sowing of winter grain seed and preparation for spring crops, the top Soviet agricultural control body said Monday.

The supreme Soviet's agricultural affairs commission, at a regular meeting Monday, suggested each collective farm should set up stores of spring grain seeds, the official news agency TASS reported.

Collection of winter seed and preparation for sowing was currently unsatisfactory in many areas, it said.

In the non-black earth regions, preparation of the soil for sowing was sluggish although the optimal sowing time was near, the commission reported.

This was despite the fact that the newly-introduced system of crop rotation had greatly improved conditions for winter grain crops, TASS said.

The commission paid much attention to the preparation of seed stocks for next year's spring crops and noted that there were serious shortcomings here, TASS said.

"We suggest a study of the state of affairs and the establishment in each farm of its own stores of spring grain and other agricultural seeds... with emphasis on full use of possibilities of creating stores of new high-productive sorts and hybrids," the commission said.

OECD sees sharp increase in Japanese trade surplus

PARIS (R) — Japan's huge trade surplus is likely to rise sharply over the next 16 months but sustained growth will have to depend on domestic demand, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said Tuesday.

In its yearly review of the Japanese economy, the OECD forecast the surplus would increase to \$30 billion this year and \$35 billion in 1984 from \$18 billion in 1982, mainly due to stimulation of Japanese exports by U.S. economic recovery.

But it said export-led growth appeared to be ruled out in the medium term by widespread protectionist measures imposed to counter the much-criticised surplus by Japan's trading partners.

Sustained growth would therefore depend on domestic demand, which is forecast to accelerate

to around three per cent by the end of 1984 from an estimated two per cent in the first half of 1983 despite high real interest rates and tight fiscal policy.

Japanese international competitiveness remains favourable despite a stronger yen, and lower oil prices will contribute to an improvement in the country's terms of trade, with projected import prices dropping 10 per cent by the end of 1984 from 1982.

The projected increase in Japanese exports and an expected significant improvement in corporate profitability should lead to a modest rise in investment from the second half of 1983.

But private investment is set to stagnate in the second half of this year and to fall during 1984, the OECD said.

The effect of a government policy of reducing budget deficits is

expected to restrain private incomes and consumption while government spending is likely to be significantly weaker than private demand, it added.

The Japanese current account balance of payments surplus is expected to rise to \$18 billion this year and to \$21 billion in 1984 from \$6.9 billion in 1982.

Japan's inflation rate, at two per cent already one of the lowest in the 24-member OECD, is expected to remain modest. But the labour market situation may worsen.

Unemployment is likely to rise to just under three per cent by the end of 1984 from 2.5 per cent last June and could go higher if a recent sharp rise in the number of women seeking work continues.

In Tokyo, the Japanese finance ministry said Tuesday that Japan registered a record monthly trade

surplus in July of \$2.85 billion surpassing the previous high of \$2.42 billion recorded in March 1978.

Economists said the country appeared to be heading for a record annual trade surplus of about \$25 to \$35 billion in the financial year ending next March.

Japanese politicians and officials are voicing concern about possible world retaliation to block the flow of Japanese goods.

Exports assessed at the customs last month totalled \$12.62 billion, 5.5 per cent more than in July last year, but imports dropped by 8.5 per cent to about \$9.76 billion.

July exports to the United States, Japan's biggest customer, were up 14.1 per cent from the same month in 1982.

Meanwhile, Japan's net import bill is dropping because of falling international oil prices.

Dollar settles

LONDON (R) — The dollar fell back against major currencies Tuesday as Monday's surge to new highs against the West German mark, the French franc and the Japanese yen ran out of steam, dealers said.

After the hectic trading of the past week, dealers said markets were calmer Tuesday with only modest intervention by central banks.

They said that Monday's news of a one half of a percentage point rise in United States prime interest rates failed to have a significant effect on the market, as the rise had been widely expected last week.

In Frankfurt, the dollar opened about one pfennig lower than Monday's close of 2.7000 marks and fell back further by midday to

around 2.6880 marks, well below the nine and a half year highs seen Monday.

The West German currency was strengthened by the Swiss National Bank buying marks and although the West German Bundesbank (Central Bank) sold \$27 million at the morning's fix, dealers said the sum was modest by recent standards.

In Paris, the dollar fell back from the high of 8.1265 francs touched Monday to trade at around 8.0885 by midday. Dealers said the Bank of France had intervened in early trading, selling about \$50 million.

The Japanese yen recovered from an eight month low of 244.85 against the dollar in Tokyo Monday to 243.75 in London Tuesday.

OECD reduces oil consumption

PARIS (R) — Mild weather and low economic growth allowed the industrialised world to reduce its oil consumption by 7.4 per cent and its oil imports by 17.5 per cent in first quarter of 1983 compared with a year earlier, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said.

In its quarterly report, the IEA said greater efforts at energy efficiency and a switch to other fuels begun by the 24 member countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) 10 years ago after the first major oil price rise, also played a part.

The report said OECD oil consumption dropped to 364 million tonnes in the first three months of 1983 from 393 million in first quarter of 1982.

Over the same period, imports fell to 188 million tonnes from 227 million, while OECD oil production rose 3.4 per cent to 182 million tonnes from 176 million.

Crude oil and product stocks held in OECD countries fell 15 million tonnes in the quarter to 415 million, the IEA said. OECD first quarter natural gas consumption fell to 231 billion cubic metres from 255 billion in first quarter 1982.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices closed mixed after rallying from a lower opening which was prompted by Monday's 20 point fall on Wall Street. Dealers said the F.T. index was up 3.9 at 725.2 having been down 2.0 at 1000.

Leading equities were marked between a penny and 5p lower at the outset reflecting Wall Street's losses but a lack of sellers prompted some cheap buying and this, coupled with a stock shortage in some issues, led to the rally, dealers said.

Government bonds closed a touch harder in places though were below early gains of ¼ point. Prices slipped off the top after the U.K. money supply figures, leaving rises of about ½ point.

In oil B.P. was firm, rising 8p to 418p, after 422p. Dealers said jobbers may have been short of B.P. stock. Among second liners Atlantic resources was 15p higher at 450p, after earlier gains of over 100p, as speculation continued over a possible significant oil discovery in the Irish Sea.

Elsewhere trading was quiet with Boots, Distillers, GEC and Lucas all losing a penny apiece. ICI was up 6p at 552p while Vickers was 2p higher at 119p.

Gold shares were generally firmer while North American shares were lower in line with Wall Street, dealers added.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.4897/4907	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2351/54	Canadian dollars
	2.6875/83	West German marks
	3.0030/40	Dutch guilders
	2.1740/50	Swiss francs
	54.83/87	French francs
	8.0870/9000	Italian lire
	1591.50/1592.50	Japanese yen
	243.65/75	Swedish crowns
	7.8790/8840	Norwegian crowns
	7.4900/50	Danish crowns
	9.6650/6700	U.S. dollars
One ounce of gold	412.10/412.60	

NEWS IN BRIEF

Swiss inflation falls to 2.2%

BERNE (R) — Swiss inflation fell to 2.2 per cent last month, the lowest since February 1979, the government announced. In June it was 2.8 per cent. Among major industrialised nations only Japan with 2.0 per cent has a lower rate. Swiss inflation has been gradually falling since reaching a peak of 7.5 per cent in August 1981. The consumer price index fell 0.2 per cent last month from June's level.

Sabic, Goodrich sign letter of intent

RIYADH (R) — The Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (Sabic) said Monday it had signed a letter of intent with the American B.F. Goodrich tyre company for the use of Goodrich technology in manufacturing products used in plastics, cables and electric wire. Under the agreement, Sabic will produce 300,000 tonnes of vinyl chloride monomer and 200,000 tonnes of polyvinyl chloride a year at two plants at Jubail.

Lisbon agrees to tough IMF terms

LISBON (R) — The Portuguese government has agreed to tough conditions from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), slashing public spending and reducing real wages, for a \$300 million loan agreement, official sources said Monday. Portugal, struggling under a \$13.5 billion foreign debt will have to suffer a drop of between four and five per cent in the real value of wages under the IMF conditions.

THE BETTER HALF

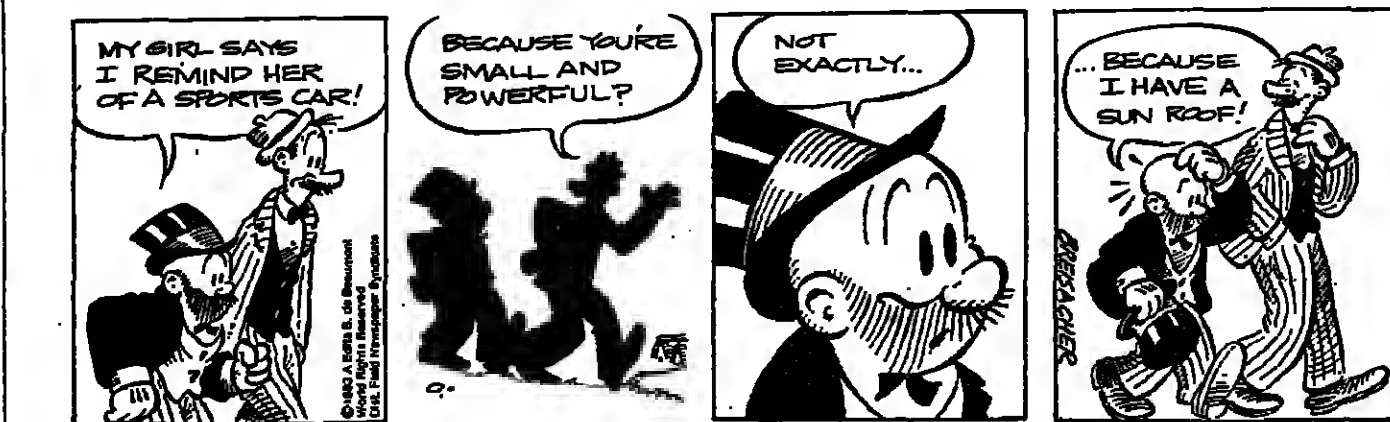
By Harris



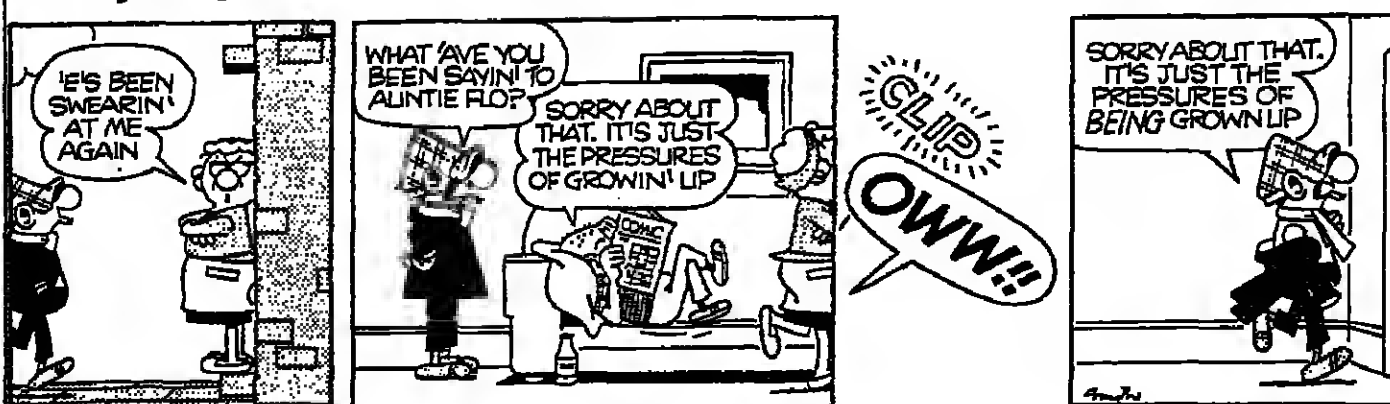
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1983

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Lots of activity in the little things of everyday life is very good. You would be wise to concentrate upon the details of whatever you are interested in.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Handle your work more efficiently now so that you can gain more income and feel more secure in the days ahead.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Get your personal appearance improved and look and feel more magnetic. Then you can make a better impression on others.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Fine day for getting your home just as you want it to be, and doing whatever will please kin, also. Socialize with friends.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) A fine day for communicating and corresponding with others and getting shopping, errands done also.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Stop being so impulsive and find the best way of handling financial affairs. Study any property for possible improvements.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Take those treatments you may need for better health and improve your appearance also. Buy new clothes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You have secret maneuverings to handle and should get an early start on them to get right results. Persevere.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Ideal day to see good friends and renew acquaintanceships and deepening relationships. Enjoy personal amusements.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Get into your vocational work and be most efficient at it. See that influential person about your ideas.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Get those ideas in motion now that you have been procrastinating about and be more successful in the future.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Although your mind is on friends, it is best to stick to business at hand and get much done and also set up a new budget.

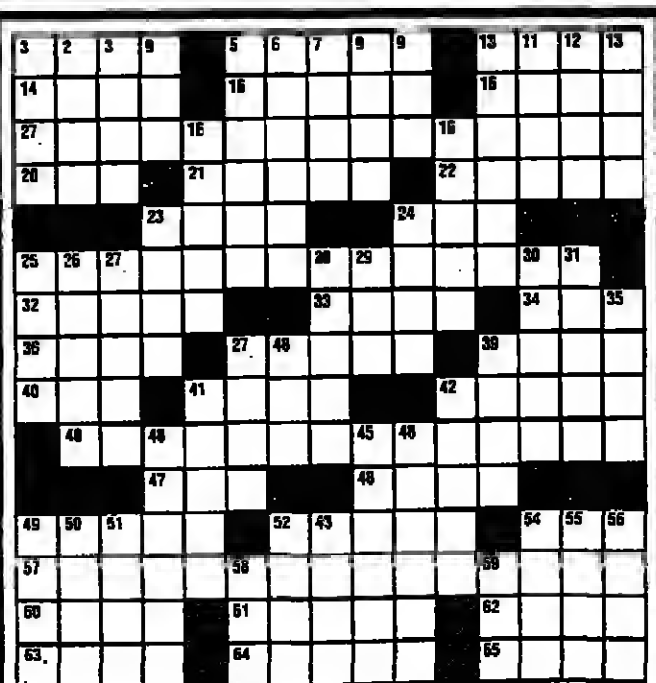
PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Best time to confer with partners and exchange ideas for greater success in the future. Come to a meeting of the minds.

IF YOUR CHILLO IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be very good at organizational work and carrying through with plans in a most precise and accurate way. Teach early not to take so much time for unnecessary details that the big issues are ignored.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

THE Daily Crossword by Nancy McCarthy

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Swinging	1 Talent
2 Spacious	2 Land
3 Hammer	3 Measure
4 Head	3 Number
5 Tea	4 Before
6 Singer	5 San god
7 Adams	6 Boards and
8 Roasting	7 Dies —
9 Towel	8 Thrall of
10 Astington	9 Beatty or
11 Star abbr.	10 Sparks
12 Influence	11 Nylon
13 Compose a	12 fitness
14 Idaho's	13 Indicator
15 motto	14 Spring
16 Playwright	15 flower
17 Edward	16 Solenn
18 The Sun	17 observance
19 also —	18 Operans
20 Floor piece	19 Per diem
21 Mr. Burrows	20 Cluffed
22 Mississip-	
23 pi's motto	
24 Specious	
25 Monk's	
26 title	
27 New Mexi-	
28 co's motto	
29 Mountain	
30 lake	
31 Bitter	
32 Sciences'	
33 partner	
34 Author	
35 Novel	
36 Part of	
37 USA's abbr.	
38 Severs	
39 Priestly	
40 vestment	
41 Surface	
42 Churn's	
43 instrument	
44 Wrench	
45 away	
46 Spines	
47 Old foggy	
48 braqueto	
49 brave	
50 Poes	
51 Memphis	
52 dolly	
53 Monster	
54 Author	
55 Sholem	
56 Peel	
57 Front	
58 Plexus	
59 Helper	
60 abbr.	
61 Military	
62 acronym	
63 Chatter	



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JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

REMIC	Guess I'd better bundle up
SELIA	
ACCUST	
TONKYT	

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: PRIME DIZZY SUPERB JUMPER
Answer: What he often did behind his wife's back—ZIPPED HER UP

WORLD

Guatemala's latest ruler promises free elections

GUATEMALA CITY (R) — Guatemala's new president, brought to power in a military coup Monday, says he will move the country towards free elections and lift emergency restrictions decreed two months ago by ousted President Efraim Rios Montt.

Gen. Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores pledged to lift the restrictions on press freedom and the right of assembly in a speech made within hours of troops taking over the capital and ousting Gen. Rios Montt.

Soldiers surrounded the presidential palace and banded their way into the building where Gen. Rios Montt and six loyal officers were taking refuge, officials said. One man was killed and five wounded before Gen. Rios Montt finally negotiated a formal hand-over of power to his defence minister.

Initial soundings among officials here suggested that Gen. Mejia Victores, 52, was to the right of Gen. Rios Montt and might move to strengthen ties with the United States.

Gen. Mejia Victores, a paratrooper officer, trained under American instructors in the Panama Canal zone and has been prominent in the 20-year war by

the Guatemalan military against left-wing guerrillas. He said Monday that Gen. Rios Montt was still in Guatemala and would remain here as a normal citizen.

Gen. Mejia Victores was called on to take power by 27 of his fellow senior officers. He said he would retain the post of defence minister and that members of the Rios Montt cabinet would stay in office for the time being.

Gen. Rios Montt, a fundamentalist Evangelist Protestant, came to power at the head of a military junta in March last year when the government of rightist President Romeo Lucas Garcia.

Shortly afterwards he sacked his junta partners and assumed the presidency. He faced two coup attempts during his 17-month presidency, the last in June this year after which he imposed state of alert restrictions.

Gen. Mejia Victores said Mon-

day he aimed to abolish special military tribunals set up by Gen. Rios Montt which have sentenced 15 men to death by firing squad in the past year.

A military proclamation said the takeover was prompted by the activities of a "religious fanatical and aggressive group using power for its own benefit."

The implications of the change in power were still being studied by political and church leaders here.

One churchman commented that the Roman Catholic Church, to which an overwhelming majority of Guatemalans belong, has felt persecuted under Gen. Rios Montt. "A change was needed," he said.

Gen. Mejia Victores said he would continue the fight against left-wing guerrillas but would also move the country towards free elections. He did not give a date.

The government in neighbouring Honduras, where Gen. Mejia Victores was reported by the local press to have met senior U.S. and Honduran military officers at the weekend, recognised the new government Monday night.



Some of the many thousands of Tamil refugees made homeless in nine days of violent riots in Sri Lanka. (A.P. wirephoto).

Sri Lanka appeals for foreign aid

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka, returning to normal after nine days of bloody ethnic clashes that resulted in millions of dollars of property damage, Tuesday appealed to local and foreign banks for help to rebuild the economy.

The government has set up a special organisation under President Junius Jayewardene to deal with reconstruction.

On the political front, the president's brother, Harry Jayewardene, was leaving for New Delhi Tuesday for talks with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, whose country's southern Tamil population has close links with the riot victims.

Officials have said at least 315 people were killed when the majority Sinhalese community attacked minority Tamils following an ambush by Tamil separatist guerrillas in northern Jaffna District, killing 13 soldiers.

Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel, who urged foreign governments Monday to provide urgent financial assistance for reconstruction, told local and foreign bankers in Colombo Tuesday that the survival of their institutions here was involved.

"What is at stake is not a mere question of race relations, but the continuity of the government's

economic policy and the country's economic growth rate. In fact, your very survival is at stake," he said.

Mr. De Mel said more than 100 factories had been damaged and some 100,000 people made homeless in the violence. Up to four billion rupees (\$167 million) was urgently needed to repair damage and rehabilitate refugees, he added.

Emergency supplies of food, clothing and medicine have begun arriving from abroad to help victims of the rioting. The first shipments to land came from India and the United States.

2 Americans arrested in N. Ireland

BELFAST (R) — Police arrested 64 people, including two Americans, in Northern Ireland during a night of violence to mark the 12th anniversary Tuesday of the introduction of internment without trial for alleged guerrillas.

One American, from Indianapolis, was believed to be visiting the province in a group of 80 Irish Americans from the fundraising organisation Noraid, informed sources said. He faces charges of riotous behaviour.

Police fired plastic bullets to disperse demonstrators in the capital Belfast, the second city Londonderry, and Newry.

The most serious disturbances were in Londonderry, where youths set fire to shops and caused damage valued at hundreds of thousands sterling. Rioting also broke out in the towns of Dungannon, Coalisland and Downpatrick.

Police said a number of people were in hospital, including an American from Pittsburgh who was arrested in Londonderry, but only one person appeared to be seriously injured.

'Sex films' lawyer invited to court

LOS ANGELES (R) — Lawyer Robert Steinberg has been invited to appear before a grand jury to discuss sex films he claims involve senior Reagan administration officials, his lawyer said.

A grand jury is made up of private citizens who decide whether charges should be brought against individuals.

Mr. Steinberg claimed last month he had seen sex films showing two officials of ambassadorial rank and also a member of the House of Representatives, two prominent businessmen, late multi-millionaire Alfred Bloomingdale and Mr. Bloomingdale's murdered mistress, Vicki Morgan.

Mr. Steinberg later reported to the police the films had been stolen from his office in the Beverly Hills District of Los Angeles.

Police asked the district attorney's (prosecutor's) office to consider taking criminal action against Mr. Steinberg, alleging he had filed a false police report.

Mr. Steinberg's lawyer, Leonard Levine, told reporters Monday "obviously, Steinberg is under investigation."

"He has been invited by the grand jury to give evidence. It is my understanding at this time he will respectfully decline the invitation," Mr. Levine said.

An actress, Cindy Stonehouse, who told reporters she had been invited to attend weekly sex parties involving prominent people in the Los Angeles area, reported Monday she had been subpoenaed to appear before the grand jury.

Britain scrapped internment without trial in 1975 but supporters of Republican guerrillas fighting to end British rule in the province regularly mark the anniversary of its introduction.

At least 39 people were arrested in Belfast, where rioters built barricades in the Catholic areas of the city and masked youths hijacked and set a bus alight.

There were seven arrests in Londonderry, where the fires badly damaged a drapery store and a furniture warehouse.

Youths pelted police with 50 petrol bombs and a police Land Rover was blown up during three hours of rioting there. Two policemen were slightly injured by a door dropped from the roof of a block of flats.

Police station attacked

Nine arrests were made in Newry, where rioters threw petrol bombs at police. In Coalisland, County Tyrone, masked men attacked a police station with petrol bombs and burned a bus.

The members of Noraid, which sympathises with the Republican

guerrillas and their campaign to unify Ireland by force, have spent the past week in the province on a fact-finding tour.

The British government Monday night accused them of publicly associating themselves only with "supporters of violence" and making no effort to meet members of the province's Protestant majority.

The Northern Ireland Office, responding to suggestions by Protestant leaders that it should have refused to allow the Noraid members into the province, said in a statement: "To have sought to deny these visitors access to Northern Ireland would have suggested that we had reservations and doubts."

It said the government's policies were open for all to see and added that the group should have tried to speak to the province's Protestant majority as well as its Catholic minority.

"They have not done this, confining their meetings to limited groups and publicly associating themselves with supporters of violence," it said.

Lesotho says S. Africa behind attack on premier

MASERU (R) — A Lesotho government spokesman Tuesday accused South Africa of trying to assassinate Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan.

Information Minister Desmond Sixshe told Reuters in an interview that he believed South African agents had planted a bomb which exploded in Maseru last Thursday narrowly missing the prime minister.

He said Lesotho police knew there was a South African assassination squad in the capital aiming to kill Jonathan and other Lesotho figures, whom he did not name.

Mr. Sixshe said responsibility

for previous bombings and other violent incidents in Lesotho over the past two years had usually been quickly claimed by the Lesotho Liberation Army (LLA). But he said there had been no such claim for the Thursday blast.

The minister said police investigators had concluded that the explosive device used was too sophisticated for the LLA.

He also said that the car in which the bomb was planted came from Bloemfontein, he said, was the centre for South African security operations against Lesotho. It bore South African registration plates, he said.

Human rights group accuses Jakarta

GENEVA (R) — The anti-slavery society said it had evidence of widespread human rights abuses by the Indonesian authorities against the indigenous peoples of Irian Jaya (the western half of New Guinea).

The London-based society, the world's oldest human rights organisation, called on the United Nations to initiate an independent inquiry into what it described as the threatened destruction of the West Papuan people by the Indonesian security forces.

The allegations came in a report submitted to a working group of the U.N. subcommission on prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities which is meeting in Geneva.

The anti-slavery society had received reports of as many as 200,000 murders of West Papuans since Indonesia annexed the ter-

'Allegations confirmed'

"Investigations carried out this year by the anti-slavery society confirm these allegations of widespread abuses of human rights," the report stated.

Indonesian rule had met with fierce resistance from the one million Melanesian people of the former Dutch colony and "the militarisation of West Papua and the continuing repression of the indigenous peoples" had been accompanied by the immigration of an estimated one million Javanese, the report said.

The Papuans were becoming a minority in their own country

Chinese defector describes his flight

SEOUL (R) — A Chinese defector has said that he was able to flee to South Korea in his MiG-21 jet fighter because he was one of China's leading test pilots, government sources said Tuesday.

Sun Tien-Chin, 46, said he was flying with another MiG-21 over northeast China last Sunday when he broke away at 4,600 metres and headed south at full speed, the sources said.

The jet, capable of flying at Mach 2.1 — more than twice the speed of sound — crossed the Yellow Sea and was spotted by South Korean jets as it neared South Korean air space.

Sun has been undergoing debriefing by South Korean intelligence officers at an undisclosed place since he defected.

Sun said he had defected because he was not satisfied with the communist system in China. His father, a party official, was purged during the cultural revolution and Sun was black-listed and forbidden to fly, the sources said.

Sun's rights were restored when Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping came to power, but the pilot was still not satisfied with China's system and decided to wait for an opportunity to defect, the sources added.

Sun said that after he broke away from a navigational training flight and headed for South Korea he could hear the control tower at his base calling him, but he ignored the calls, the sources said.

Later he could hear other pilots saying over the radio that Sun was presumed to have crashed.

Sun said the reason he succeeded in defecting was because he was a member of the elite corps of test pilots, the sources said.

China said Monday that one of its planes lost contact while on a training flight on Sunday and an investigation was being conducted.

A foreign ministry spokeswoman in Peking said Tuesday that Seoul should hand back both the pilot and his plane.

She could not immediately comment when asked whether Peking would make an official response to South Korea's offer to possibly return the jet if China requested it.

A high-ranking South Korean official Tuesday confirmed that Seoul was prepared to negotiate the return of the MiG if asked, but the aircraft would remain here if no such request were received from China, he said.

South Korean Prime Minister Kim Sang-Hyup was meeting senior cabinet ministers Tuesday to consider the question of the jet and when Sun should be allowed to leave for political asylum in a third country — expected to be Taiwan.

The Taiwanese government has already offered Sun \$3.5 million in gold if he settles in Taiwan.

Another Chinese pilot who defected to South Korea last October, Wu Yung-Ken, received \$2.5 million in gold when he went on to Taiwan and is now a major in the Nationalist air force.

Cabinet ministers were also discussing Tuesday the scare caused by an excited civil defence spokesman who interrupted radio programmes in Seoul on Sunday to announce in a trembling voice that an enemy air attack was underway west of the capital.

Seventeen minutes later the all-clear was sounded and the announcer revealed the warning was called because of the penetration of South Korean air space by the Chinese jet.

Politicians and newspapers criticised the civil defence spokesman for what they called excited and excessive announcements which had caused an unnecessary scare for the Korean people.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Britain not worried about Belize

LONDON (R) — Britain said Tuesday a military coup in Guatemala posed no increased threat to neighbouring Belize, a former British colony still defended by 1,800 British troops, Guatemala has a century-old claim to Belize and talks last January to resolve the territorial dispute ended in stalemate. The British Foreign Office said it perceived no increased threat to Belize from the ouster Monday of Guatemala's President Efraim Rios Montt, toppled after 17 months in power by another right-wing general, Oscar Humberto Mejia. British officials said they had no indication the new president would pursue a more aggressive policy towards Belize, formerly British Honduras until it gained independence in 1981. "Naturally we are keeping a close watch on the situation," said the Foreign Office spokesman.

Bomb damages Air Algeria office

MARSEILLES, France (R) — A bomb seriously damaged an Air Algeria office here early Tuesday but caused no injuries. An anonymous telephone call to a news agency claimed responsibility for a rightist anti-immigrant group with a record of violence against North African property in France. The caller said the Charles Martel group caused the blast, which police said damaged all but one of the office's five floors. The office is in an area where a large number of North African immigrants live. Monday night police patrols were increased after another call said a bomb starting the "clean-up of France" was due.

U. Volta leader sacks cabinet

OUAGADOUGOU (R) — Capt. Thomas Sankara, who seized power in Upper Volta last week, has sacked his predecessor's cabinet, officials sources said. He met top civil servants in each ministry Monday and asked them to take charge until he appoints a new cabinet. He did not say when the cabinet would be named. The 34-year-old leftist paratrooper commander told them they were not to take major decisions, the sources said. Capt. Sankara told the meeting of civil servants that all visiting foreigners stranded in Upper Volta as a result of the ban on air traffic would be evacuated Tuesday by special flights.

Machel appoints new army leaders

MAPUTO (R) — Mozambique President Samora Machel has appointed eight new army commanders to step up operations against Mozambique Resistance Movement (RNM) rebels in central Zambezia Province. The president, presenting the officers at a rally in the provincial capital of Quelimane Monday, said Zambezia was the worst-hit of the country's 10 provinces. Mozambique blames South Africa for sponsoring the guerrillas and Mr. Machel accused the Pretoria government of choosing what targets are to be attacked. RNM violence was hindering industrial development in Zambezia, which has a population of three million people, he said. The opening of a giant textile factory had been put back to 1985 and food was rotting because of transport problems.

Emergency aid sent to Angola

GENEVA (R) — The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said Tuesday it is providing \$400,000 for emergency assistance to some 600,000 Angolan victims of drought and civil disruption. More than two thirds of the victims are women and children, including 73,000 infants under one.

Indonesian volcano erupts again

JAKARTA (R) — Mount Gamalama in east Indonesia erupted early Tuesday, sending some 6,000 people running to safety in Ternate Island, 2,353 kilometres northeast of here, an official said Tuesday. Rescue officials said the eruption of Gamalama, the second Indonesian volcano to erupt in less than a month, was preceded by strong tremors. There were no reports of casualties.

More U.S. forces expected in Guatemala

TEGUCIGALPA (R) — The first contingent of U.S. forces dispatched to Central America has landed in Honduras for the largest military exercises ever staged in the region and more were expected Tuesday, military sources said.

The manoeuvres, named "Big Pine II", were designed to demonstrate U.S. ability to quickly deploy forces overseas and as a show of strength in Central America, where President Reagan sees a spreading Soviet and Cuban influence.

Between 2,500 and 3,000 troops are expected to arrive within the next four to five weeks, the military sources said.

A total of 5,600 U.S. troops will join 6,000 Honduran ground forces for exercises lasting at least six months. They will be backed up by 14 U.S. warships carrying more than 16,000 military personnel and 140 fighter planes.

The first Americans to arrive were a group of engineers who landed in the northern coastal town of San Pedro Sula Monday with equipment to build training

camps, barracks and a provisional 60-bed hospital.

The United States accuses Nicaragua, whose leftist leaders ousted a U.S.-backed dictator four years ago, of trying to export revolution to Washington's allies in the area.

Nicaraguan officials say the United States called the manoeuvres to set up an invasion of their country.

Honduran armed forces spokesman Cesar Elvir Sierra denied this, but said the manoeuvres carry a "clear warning" to Nicaragua.

Nicaraguan junta leader Daniel Ortega said Monday his country was speedily preparing to battle U.S. troops to defend its territory "inch by inch".

In answer to U.S. charges that Soviet ships were carrying arms to Nicaragua he said: "We have the right... to obtain arms from wherever".

The U.S. manoeuvres have been sharply criticised by congressmen and Latin American diplomats who said the war games

were not helping talks to find a peaceful solution to the conflicts in Central America where three out of six countries are fighting insurgencies.

Cuban leader Fidel Castro Monday denied that the military muscle-flexing had encouraged Nicaragua or Cuba to take a more conciliatory attitude toward negotiations.

Mounting hostility between Nicaragua and Honduras, the staunchest U.S. ally in the region, spurred the so-called Contadora group of Latin American diplomats to urgent peace talks. Clashes between U.S.-backed Nicaraguan rebels and Nicaraguan troops had raised fears of all-out war in the region.

Mr. Ortega said on Sunday his government was willing to negotiate on terms for peace, particularly a proposal to withdraw foreign advisers.

Mr. Ortega suggested that instead of spending millions of dollars on the exercises, the United States should concentrate its efforts on aiding peace talks.

Cape oil slick gone with the wind

CAPE TOWN (R) — The immediate threat of a pollution disaster on South Africa's Atlantic Coast appeared to have passed Tuesday as offshore winds drove a massive oil slick from a wrecked Spanish supertanker out to sea.

Weather forecasters said a favourable southeasterly wind would continue until at least Tuesday night, blowing the 150-square-kilometre slick, now almost 50 kilometres offshore, away from the coast.

Pollution experts said the slick would soon enter the Benguela Current and be swept away into the Atlantic where it would break up.

Port officials said the bow section of the tanker Castillo de Belver, which broke in two after catching fire on Saturday, was being towed slowly out to sea.

British pollution expert Mike Garnett, flown in on Sunday to assist in the operation, said the plan was to move the bow with its estimated 50,000 to 60,000 tons of crude oil into deep water and allow it to sink. He said it would probably be Wednesday afternoon before it reached deep enough water.

The ship's stern section, containing an estimated 75,000 to 100,000 tons of oil, which sank after the fire, is not leaking and poses no immediate pollution threat.

But a seabird protection society said some oil had seeped into waters around bird sanctuaries on the many islands off the coast and thousands of birds were expected to be affected.

In Madrid, crew members returning from Cape Town via London told reporters they had no idea what caused the blaze. Thirty of the 33 survivors flew back to Spain Monday night, while one crew member remained in hospital with burns.

Three men are still missing and an agent for the shipowners said Monday there was little hope of finding them.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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Q.—In your opinion, what aspect of bidding causes the average player to throw away the most points? I tend to think that it is in slam bidding, but I would value your opinion.—L. Matthews, Oak Park, Mich.

[This question has been awarded the weekly prize.] A.—I agree that, by and large, slam bidding leaves something to be desired, even among many expert pairs. And at the top levels of bridge, failure to bid sound slams costs more than anything else. But my own feeling is that misfit hands cause far more damage to the average player.

I remember some years ago I was a guest in a commuter railroad game. It seemed to be the rule that the shorter a player was in his partner's suit, the more he felt constrained to bid some number of an trump. No one ever gave a thought to the fact that, without a fit for partner's suit, there was simply no source of tricks for a trump contract.

The average player simply doesn't know when to STOP bidding. Give him a sound

opening bid and, say, 6-5 in the black suits, and no matter how many times partner bids the red suit, he tries to push on in the blacks. And then when he gets doubled and loses some large number of points, he will wall: "But partner, you opened the bidding and I had 14 points and a six-card suit!"

Here's another example that is quite common. A player picks up: ♠KJ532 ♣A843 ♦K652 According to the point count, the hand is worth 11 points in high cards and 3 for the void. But now partner opens one heart, and the prudent player will immediately decide that his void in partner's suit is no longer an asset but, in fact, a major defect.

Still, he has a perfectly sound one spade response. But when partner now rebids two hearts, showing a six-card suit, the whole picture of the hand changes. It has become a misfit, and I maintain that the only correct action now is to pass. But how many times have I seen players trot out three clubs, without even thinking that they are making a forcing bid and that there might no longer be any safe place to bail out!